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REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

Etruria-Celtica: Etruscan Literature and Antiquities investigated; in which the Language of that ancient and illustrious People is compared and identified with the Ibero-Celtic, and both shewn to be Phoenician. By Sir William Betham, Ulster King at Arms, V.P. R.D.S., F.A.S., &c. &c., author of various historical and archaeological works. 2 vols. 8vo. Dublin, P. D. Hardy and Sons: London, R. Groomebridge; Boones.

The attempts to discover the meaning of the Etruscan inscriptions have been hitherto altogether abortive—not one word has received a satisfactory solution—exertions of both Italian and German savans have yielded but disappointment. After so many failures, our credence is not easily accorded to an attempt to unravel the mystery from an unexpected, if not improbable, quarter. The title of this work promises much, and the author speaks confidently: he has no doubt satisfied himself; but we recollect that Vallancey's collation of the Punic passages in Plautus is still controverted, and by our most eminent Gaelic scholars.

Sir William Betham is known as an indefatigable and laborious investigator; his works display considerable tact and great research. He is not an Irishman, and has no national prejudices to give his judgment a false bias. His *Gael and Cymri*, which was a forerunner to this work, is a book of much value and interest: in that, if he did not demonstrate the identity of the ancient Gauls, Britons, and Irish, he went far to establish the fact; and, acting upon the advice of Dr. Johnson to O'Conor of Bealanagar, he has studied the Irish language, and endeavoured to make it available to his purpose. If he have discovered in it a clue to unravel the mysterious Etruscan, he has indeed accomplished an object for which all lovers of history should be grateful. Let us see how he has fulfilled his promises. The following passages from his former work he quotes in the preface to the present:—

"Having been impressed with the idea that the demonstration of the true origin and history of the Irish people would afford powerful aid towards elucidating those of other European nations, I have pursued this investigation for many years; and the results have justified the accuracy of the opinion I had formed beyond my most sanguine expectations . . . In that volume I endeavoured to demonstrate the identity of race of the Irish, Britons, and Celtic Gauls of Caesar's day, and suggested that they were all of Phoenician origin. I now place before the world the results of further investigation, acknowledging that, upon some points, I have since found reason to change my opinion; and as my object has always been, not to affect infallibility, but to demonstrate truth, I have done so without hesitation. There was not, however, much to recall; subsequent inquiry has, for the most part, established my general postulates."

Accident led him to the comparison of the Etruscan language with the Hiberno-Celtic.

"In reading in Suetonius the life of Augus-

tus, I found that *Aesar* in the Etruscan tongue signified *God*. The import in Irish being the same, it struck me forcibly that this might not be accidental, but that the Etruscan language might be essentially Celtic, and therefore capable of interpretation by the Irish. On examination, the conjecture proved well founded: the results of the investigation consequent on the discovery will be found in the following pages."

These extracts give an accurate notion of the objects of the author in these volumes. The Gaelic language and literature are known to so very few, and by most of those few so imperfectly, that it is, perhaps, the most difficult, if not dangerous task we ever encountered, to criticise and review this production. The author concludes his preface with the following Irish proverb:—

Tuig ari túr aghair labhair aí rím.

"Understand first, then speak!"

We shall not, however, be prevented by this caution from giving our opinion; for although our knowledge of the Irish language may not be very profound, the general gist of these volumes is within the capability and cognisance of any well-educated scholar.

But before offering a few remarks upon any of the interesting points so ably discussed by our author, we fancy the majority of our readers may like to be told the history of the Etruscan Tables, on which so much of his argument and illustration rests.

"Gubbio, or Ugubbio, is an episcopal city in the duchy of Urbino, within the papal territory, in the delegation of Ancona, containing a population of about 4000 souls, in latitude 40° 30' north, longitude 13° 31', at the western point of the Apennines, about ten British miles north of Perugia. It was anciently called Eubugium or Iuvium. Mrs. Hamilton Gray, in her account of the papal cities, says: 'Of these, I place Gubbio first. It is a beautiful place, and ought to be included in every tour. Its ancient name was Iuvine, and it was much favoured by Rome after it lost its liberty. It is an Umbrian city of untold antiquity, and was conquered by the Etruscans about one thousand years before the Christian era. There are kept the famous Etruscan tables found at La Scheggia, a little to the north of the town, in A.D. 1444, close to the temple of Jove Apeninus. They are tables of brass or bronze, engraved on both sides (?) with a long liturgy, and the names of places and deities, and references to land, manners, and customs, which but for them would be unknown. These tables were seven in number, but only six are preserved. One was sent to Venice to be translated before the conquest by Napoleon, and has never been recovered. It and the old Italian MSS. of the four Gospels are probably in some private collections. According to Sir William Gell, eight of the inscriptions are in Umbrian, or Pelasgic, commonly called Etruscan, and four in Latin characters. In the latter, which seem to be like the other tables as to their contents, but somewhat modernised, the letter *o* appears instead of *v*, and sometimes instead of *f*. The *g* is also introduced, which was not

used, as is imagined, till about the year 400 B.C. Those in the Umbrian character may be three hundred years older; that is, about the time of Romulus and Numa. The lines run from right to left. A slight alteration had taken place in the language when the tables in the Roman letters were written. The archaeological professors at Rome told me that the language here called Umbrian was the Oscan, not identical with the Etruscan, but as near to it as the Swedish is to the German, and Portuguese to Spanish; perhaps as near as modern English is to that of Henry II. or nearer. The third table is an edict for the feast called 'Plenarum Urnarium.' One of the oldest Latin tables is a prayer for the agriculture of Iuvium, after written IUVINA, or thus, ANIVVOII. The Latin of these tables was not understood in the days of Cicero or Livy. The reader is probably aware that, among all the nations of eastern origin, the ancient mode of writing public acts was on tables of stone or brass, and that such writings were held sacred as laws, or records of history. Specimens may be seen in the capital of the consular times, which look as fresh and as sharply engraved as if they had not been more than a twelvemonth out of the workman's hands. The cathedral of Gubbio, with one or two churches containing excellent pictures, the duke's palace, the town-house, and public library, are particularly well worth notice." This account of these tables, given to Mrs. Gray by the Italian savans, differs widely from the statements of their own writers; even their number is inaccurate. Mrs. Gray's volume is full of amusement and instruction; the errors in it are not hers, but of those whose statements and opinions she relates. Mrs. Gray says the tables are engraved on both sides; but this would appear inconsistent with the account given by Conciolus, who states that they were found fixed up against the wall. The statement that the city of Gubbio was called Icubini, or Iuvina, arose from these words occurring so often in the tables, and its having some similarity to the name Iuvium, or Eubugium; but is doubtful whether they had any reference to the name of the city. It is, however, possible the dedication of the temple to Minerva, and this shout of Icubine, Icubini, Iuvini, and eventually Io Pean, may have had the influence of giving name to the temple and the city. Antonius Conciolus states, in his description of the city of Gubbio, that while certain excavations were going on at a hill near the city, in the year 1444, the workmen came in contact with buildings of compact masonry, which, on being cleared from the earth and rubbish, exposed to view an ancient temple or crypt, in one of the chambers of which were found, fixed up against the wall, nine tables, or plates of ancient brass or bronze, covered with inscriptions in the Etruscan character and language. Of these tables, seven are still preserved in the museum of Gubbio: two are said to have been sent to Venice in 1505 for the purpose of being interpreted or translated. Of the seven tables now remaining at Gubbio, five are written from right to left in the old Etruscan character, and two from left to right, in what is now called, and has ever been con-

sidered, the Roman character. Father Gori, in his *Museum Etruscum*, calls the character in which the two last are written the Pelasgic—by what authority it is not easy to imagine. Müller calls it the Latin character. Sanctes Marmochini, in the preface to his MS. Dialogue, p. 16, on the back, says, that he saw five tables of brass at Gubbio written in Etruscan characters, which he transcribed into his little book; but he takes no notice of the two written in the Roman character, or of the eleven lines in the same character added at the end of Table III.: probably he did not consider them Etruscan, being in the Roman character."

After citing other authorities, which he considers to be erroneous, Sir William says:—

"The Eugubian tables are above all suspicion; arguments in support of their genuine character are unnecessary. * * *

These tables, being original inscriptions, may be considered accurate representations of the ancient language; but the Punic passages which appear in the *Poenulus* of Plautus have passed through the hands of so many transcribers, none of whom understood the meaning of a sentence, and are thereby so much corrupted and disfigured, as to render them, as historical or philological testimony, of very little value, and on which no reliance can be placed. Doubtless, however, it is substantially the same as the Etruscan, although not capable of demonstration, like the Eugubian inscriptions, which, although of much higher antiquity, and consequently of more simple construction of language, can be treated of with certainty. Many passages in these inscriptions, in the early examination of them, were found so palpably Irish, such as *poit do b̄ ño*, *being arrived in port*, and *t̄at t̄n at eñ*, *beyond that also much*, and many others, as to leave little doubt that the whole was of possible interpretation by means of the Irish language; but the great labour of the investigation, with the opposition and discouragement, before mentioned, thrown in the way, have frequently produced uncertainty and despair of bringing it to a successful issue. * * *

The tables No. V. to I. treat of the discovery of Ireland, which is attributed to the influence of Minerva, or, as she is called in these inscriptions, Nerf, or Nerfe, which was her true name, being the goddess of the moon, the sea, and maritime enterprise, as well as of wisdom. It is stated, that a Phoenician vessel proceeded in a strong current along the coast of Spain, beyond Cape Ortegal, then called the 'Northern headland of the Ocean' (on which it appears a fire-beacon was kept burning for the benefit of mariners at night), for twelve days, in a direction due north, observed by the polar star, when they saw land, and came to a point, which they named *Car na*, or *the Turn*; in another place it is called *Tus cer*, or *the first Turn*, being the first deviation from the direct northern track; they saw also a large black rock in the middle of the sea. They went round this point and got into smooth water, and were free from the heavy seas and swells they had so long encountered. They called this *Car na ser tus cer*, or the *Free Turn of the first deviation* (*c̄l̄ ña r̄oñ t̄uy c̄l̄*). That point of land bears the name of *Carnasore Point*, and the rock the *Tuscar Rock*. The peninsula is now the parish of *Carne*, in the county of Wexford; by Ptolemy it was called *Sacrum Promontorium*. The mariners, having got into smooth water, proceeded to examine the coast, and soon discovered the entrance into the river Slaney, which they entered in safety. The flux and reflux of the

tides are described with extraordinary accuracy—declared to be governed by a certain law, and influenced by the moon. They dedicated the country to Nerf, by the guidance of whose wisdom they had made the discovery; and it is worthy of remark, that coins of bronze are still extant, evidently made to commemorate this discovery, and, in the honour of the goddess, with the inscription, *IKUBINI*, in Etruscan characters, which will be found figured and described hereafter in the chapter on the coins of the Phoenico-Etruscans. The word *ICUBINI* in the sixth and seventh tables, written in the Roman character (or later Etruscan), is *IIOVINA* or *IIOVINE*, and may be rendered *I JUÑ be i* *IIJ*, *by wisdom night and day in the*; from this the *Io Pœan* of the Greeks and Romans was no doubt derived: but of this more hereafter, when the deities of the Phoenico-Etruscans are considered. The tables then state that mountains were seen to the north of Carne. Some description is given of the return to the Frith, as the Straits of Hercules are called, and many curious particulars are adverted to, particularly the advantage of keeping from the land, in deep water, which is represented as entirely free from the danger of shoals or rocks; that, contrasted with the old method of coasting, it was delightful; that the seamen were confident, happy, and contented; that steering by the north star, they were certain of arriving at Carne, and might be sure they were right when they saw the rock in the sea. That this land was dedicated to Nerf, because it was the first land discovered, and the introduction to other undiscovered countries; and that by her coercion and guidance it was found. It was thus Ireland became a holy island, dedicated to the 'illustrious holy one of the sea, the holy guiding one of the sea, even Nerf.' It is remarkable, that the title, *IIAOM*, given to Nerf, as the holy one, is the same as that now given by the Irish to the Christian saints. All the points and circumstances of this voyage are marked out with extraordinary accuracy. Cape Ortegal is called the three hills, the figure it exhibits from the sea; and its name indicates that a watch-tower, or beacon, was kept upon it—*uñl*, *coast or shore*, *T̄ñl*, *house*, *c̄l̄*, *of watching*.

On this we only remark, that *Ma Nerf*, i. e. Good Nerf, is a very ready explication of the original of Minerva.

We shall now give a *précis* of the contents of Sir W. Betham's work. In the first volume are six chapters. The first treats of the first inhabitants of the British Islands. The second contains a general view of Etruscan antiquities, and what has been done for their elucidation. The third is a discussion on the origin and formation of language, and a comparison of the Irish and the Etruscan, with their respective alphabets, and some observations shewing their monosyllabic character and affinity. Chapter four presents a history of the Eugubian tables; after which they are given, first in the Etruscan character; then in three columns, Etruscan, Irish, and literal English, in juxtaposition; and, lastly, in a free, or, as the author calls it, an *idiomatic* translation, with an explanatory introduction and critical observations. Chapter six treats of the celebrated Perugian inscription discovered in 1822, with another inscription from Montfaucon, both which are translated and explained.

The second volume has nine chapters. The first treats of the origin and nature of the mythology of the ancients, the Gods of the Etruscans, Greeks, and Romans; with a new reading of the *Sanconiathon*, making it the name of

a book, not of an author; with explanations of the names of the deities and mythological monsters of antiquity, quite new and unexpected. The second attempts the difficult subject of the mysteries of the Cabiri, of which Freemasonry is stated to be the modern representative. The third treats of the ring-money used by the Celts before metallic money, which still passes as money in Africa under an Irish name, and is manufactured at Birmingham, and sent to Benin and elsewhere in Africa in millions annually. The fourth chapter treats of the coins of Etruria, of which a series is given of all known varieties, with explanations of the legends upon them. The fifth chapter discusses the bronze swords, spears, and other military weapons, and also of the mirrors and the physiology of the Etruscans. The sixth chapter is devoted to the ancient sepulchral *tumuli*, and compares the mode of burial of the ancients in Ireland and Etruria. In the seventh chapter, the *questio vexata* of the round towers of Ireland is treated of, and they are compared with those in other countries; and the reasoning and the examples adduced by Sir William in proof of their sepulchral character must go far to put an end to all doubts on the subject. The eighth chapter treats of the geographical names of Italy and Greece, which are explained; and concludes with a dissertation on the knowledge possessed by the ancients of the magnet. Chapter nine contains a general summary and review, with observations on some remarkable ancient Irish manuscripts.

Such is the varied and extensive bill of fare offered to our consideration, one division of which would suffice for a volume in these days of amplification and book-making. The author concludes with the following passages, which are not, at all events, subject to censure as presumptuous:—

"I am sensible that I do not possess many of the acquirements necessary to the perfect accomplishment of a work like this; but conceiving myself in possession of the clue, without which learning, however profound, must be useless, I felt that unless I undertook the task, it might probably never be accomplished: few have been placed in circumstances to lead them to such a discovery, and of that few not one might be found able, or if able willing, to undertake so onerous a labour. I have, therefore, ventured; and now launch my bark amid the rocks and storms of criticism, trusting that, at least, it may prove a means of enabling some more learned and competent scholar to do justice to a subject pregnant with important results."

In addition to these observations, it is but just to remark, that Sir William has rendered great service to Irish literature; and cleared away many of those difficulties and obscurities under which a rich variety of beauties lay concealed. Every lover of his country must feel indebted to him for the great labour and perseverance he has evinced in the work before us, as well as for his other publications on the subject of Irish antiquities. The style of his work is plain, comprehensive, and perspicuous; with, however, a few repetitions, and the use of objectionable 'progressions,' and an occasional nod in referring to enumerated topics; yet still he has left no subject on which

* Ex. gr. p. 104, vol. ii. "Cæsar tells us, that the Gauls 'use for money gold and iron rings, by certain weight.' The latter have perished by oxidation, but the two former are found in great abundance in the fields and bogs in every part of Ireland." Here seems to be three references to two articles—gold and iron ring-money.

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he has touched imperfect or unsatisfactory. In short, his book will be found one of the most curious, interesting, and erudite productions that has issued from the press for many years. It is brought out in a suitable manner; though we regret to say, that the multitudinous errors of typography are not only discreditable to the Irish press, but often injurious to the sense, of passages, too, absolutely dependent for their argument on a clear and perfect accuracy in this respect.

Conquest of Siberia, and the History of the Transactions, Wars, Commerce, &c. &c. carried on between Russia and China, from the earliest Period. Translated from the Russian of G. F. Müller, Historiographer of Russia, and of P. S. Pallas, M.D., F.R.S., &c. Pp. 156.

For this timely pamphlet, applicable to several of the most interesting commercial topics of the day, both as regards Russia and China, we are, we believe, indebted to the Chevalier Dillon, the enterprising discoverer of the relics of La Peyrouse. It is without a publisher's name; but we presume and hope it is not confined to private presentations; for its contents are of very general utility, and relate to circumstances of trade which ought to be publicly known.

After describing the earliest intercourse which existed between Russia and China, M. Müller (well translated and edited by M. Dillon) comes down to the *status quo* of Kiachta, the frontier town of Siberia, and Maimatschin, the adjoining frontier town of the Chinese, at which it was agreed, by a treaty, 14 June, 1728, that the barter of the two countries should be carried on. Another place was also appointed, Zuru-chatu; but its traffic has never grown into any consequence, and the great exchange of commodities has been confined to Kiachta and Maimatschin. And here we are told:—

"One innovation in the mode of carrying on the trade to China, which has been introduced since the accession of the present empress, Catherine II., deserves to be mentioned in this place. Since the year 1755 no caravans have been sent to Pekin. Their first discontinuance was owing to a misunderstanding between the two courts of Petersburg and Pekin, in 1759. Their disuse, after the reconciliation had taken place, arose from the following circumstances. The exportation and importation of many principal commodities, particularly the most valuable furs, were formerly prohibited to individuals, and solely appropriated to caravans belonging to the crown. By these restrictions the Russian trade to China was greatly shackled and circumscribed. The empress (who, amidst many excellent regulations which characterise her reign, has shewn herself invariably attentive to the improvement of the Russian commerce) abolished, in 1762, the monopoly of the fur-trade, and renounced in favour of her subjects the exclusive privilege which the crown enjoyed of sending caravans to Pekin. By these concessions the profits of the trade have been considerably increased; the great expense, hazard, and delay, of transporting the merchandise occasionally from the frontiers of Siberia to Pekin has been retrenched; and Kiachta is now rendered the centre of the Russian and Chinese commerce."

Pallas's account of Kiachta, and the regions around, is quoted in so far as it throws light upon the main subject; and from it we learn that "this settlement is but indifferently provided with water, both in quality and quantity; for although the brook Kiachta is dammed up as it flows by the fortress, yet it is so shallow in

summer, that, unless after heavy rains, it is scarcely sufficient to supply the inhabitants. Its stream is troubled and unwholesome, and the springs which rise in the neighbourhood are either foul or brackish; from these circumstances, the principal inhabitants are obliged to send for water from a spring in the Chinese district. The soil of the adjacent country is mostly sand or rock, and extremely barren. If the frontiers of Russia were extended about nine versts more south to the rivulet of Bura, the inhabitants of Kiachta would then enjoy good water, a fruitful soil, and plenty of fish, all which advantages are at present confined to the Chinese."

And farther of this cunning people:—"The most elevated of the mountains that surround the valley of Kiachta, and which is called by the Mongols Burgultei, commands the Russian as well as the Chinese town; for this reason, the Chinese, at the conclusion of the last frontier treaty, demanded the cession of this mountain, under the pretext that some of their deified ancestors were buried upon its summit. The Russians gave way to their request, and suffered the boundary to be brought back to the north side of the mountain."

With respect to the interchange of goods:—"The merchants of Maimatschin come from the northern provinces of China, chiefly from Pekin, Nankin, Sandchue, and other principal towns. They are not settled at this place with their wives and families; for it is a remarkable circumstance that there is not one woman in Maimatschin. This restriction arises from the policy of the Chinese government, which totally prohibits the women from having the slightest intercourse with foreigners. No Chinese merchant engages in the trade to Siberia who has not a partner. These persons mutually relieve each other. One remains for a stated time, usually a year, at Kiachta; and when his partner arrives with a fresh cargo of Chinese merchandise, he then returns home with the Russian commodities. Most of the Chinese merchants understand the Mongol tongue, in which language commercial affairs are generally transacted. Some few, indeed, speak broken Russian; but their pronunciation is so soft and delicate, that it is difficult to comprehend them. They are not able to pronounce the *r*, but instead of it make use of an *t*; and when two consonants come together, which frequently occurs in the Russian tongue, they divide them by the interposition of a vowel. This failure in articulating the Russian language seems peculiar to the Chinese, and is not observable in the Calmucs, Mongols, and other neighbouring nations. The commerce between the Russians and Chinese is entirely a trade of barter; that is, an exchange of one merchandise for another. The Russians are prohibited to export their own coin, nor, indeed, could the Chinese receive it,

* Although unconnected with trade, the following particulars may be repeated as possessing another sort of interest. In a Mongol temple of several idols, before them "there are tables or altars, on which cakes, pastry, dried fruit, and flesh are placed on festival and prayer days; on particular occasions even whole carcasses of sheep are offered up. Tapers and lamps are kept burning day and night before the idols. Among the utensils of the temple, the most remarkable is a vessel shaped like a quiver, and filled with flat pieces of a cleft reed, on which short Chinese devices are inscribed. These devices are taken out by the Chinese on New-year's day, and are considered as oracles, which foretell the good or ill luck of the person, by whom they are drawn, for the following year. There lies also upon a table a hollow wooden black-lacquered helmet, which all persons of devotion strike with a wooden hammer, whenever they enter the temple. This helmet is regarded with such peculiar awe, that no strangers are permitted to handle it, although they are allowed to touch even the idols themselves."

even should that prohibition be taken off; for no specie is current among them except bullion. And the Russians find it more advantageous to take merchandise in exchange, than to receive bullion at the Chinese standard. The common method of transacting business is as follows:—the Chinese merchant comes first to Kiachta, and examines the merchandise he has occasion for in the warehouse of the Russian trader; he then goes to the house of the latter, and adjusts the price over a dish of tea. Both parties next return to the magazine, and the goods in question are there carefully sealed in the presence of the Chinese merchant. When this ceremony is over, they both repair to Maimatschin; the Russian chooses the commodities he wants, not forgetting to guard against fraud by a strict inspection. He then takes the precaution to leave behind a person of confidence, who remains in the warehouse until the Russian goods are delivered, when he returns to Kiachta with the Chinese merchandise."

The Russian exports are—

1. *Furs and peltry.*—"The greatest part of these furs and skins are drawn from Siberia and the New-discovered Islands: this supply, however, is not alone fully adequate to the demand of the market at Kiachta. Foreign furs are therefore imported to St. Petersburg, and from thence sent to the frontiers. England alone furnishes a large quantity of beaver and other skins, which she draws from Hudson's Bay and Canada."

2. *Cloth.*—"The coarse sort is manufactured in Russia; the finer sort is foreign, chiefly English, Prussian, and French."

3. *Various*—such as *velvets, glass and hardware, cattle, &c.*; and "the Chinese also pay very dear for hounds, greyhounds, barbets, and dogs for hunting wild boars."

But of *meal*, "the Chinese no longer import such large quantities as formerly, since they have employed the Mongols to cultivate the lands lying near the river Or schon, &c. &c."

From China the most valuable articles are—

1. *Raw and manufactured silk:* for though "the exportation of raw silk is prohibited in China under pain of death, large quantities are smuggled every year into Kiachta, but not sufficient to answer the demands of the Russian merchants."

2. *Raw and manufactured cotton.*

3. *Teas*, much superior in flavour and quality to those sent to Europe from Canton. The best costs about 8s. per lb. at Kiachta, and 12s. at Petersburg.

4. *Porcelain* of all sorts, *Japan wares, artificial flowers, spices, rhubarb, precious stones, &c. &c.* "The Chinese transport their goods to Kiachta chiefly upon camels. It is four or five days' journey from Pekin to the wall of China, and forty-six from thence across the Mongol desert to Kiachta."

"Russia (we are informed) draws great advantages from the Chinese trade. By this traffic its natural productions, and particularly its furs and skins, are disposed of in a very profitable manner. Many of these furs, procured from the most easterly parts of Siberia, are of such little value, that they would not answer the expense of carriage into Russia; while the richer furs, which are sold to the Chinese at a very high price, would, on account of their dearness, seldom meet with purchasers in the Russian do-

* "Rubies are generally procured by smuggling; and the same means pearls are occasionally disposed of to the Chinese, at a very dear rate. Pearls are much sought for by the Chinese; and might be made a very profitable article."

minions. In exchange for these commodities the Russians receive from China several valuable articles of commerce, which they would otherwise be obliged to buy at a much dearer rate from the European powers, to the great disadvantage of the balance of their trade. * * The government of Russia has reserved to itself the exclusive privilege of purchasing rhubarb: it is brought to Kiachta by some Bucharin merchants, who have entered into contract to supply the crown with that drug in exchange for furs. These merchants come from the town of Selin, which lies south-westward of the Koko-Nor, or Blue Lake, towards Thibet. Selin, and all the towns of Little Bucharia, viz. Kashkar, Yerken, Atrar, &c. are subject to China. The best rhubarb purchased at Kiachta is produced upon a chain of rocks, which are very high, and for the most part destitute of wood; they lie north of Selin, and stretch as far as the Koko-Nor. The good roots are distinguished by large and thick stems. The Tanguts, who are employed in digging up the roots, enter upon that business in April or May. As fast as they take them out of the earth, they cleanse them from the soil, and hang them upon the neighbouring trees to dry, where they remain until a sufficient quantity is procured; after which they are delivered to the Bucharin merchants. The roots are wrapped up in woollen sacks, carefully preserved from the least humidity, and are in this manner transported to Kiachta upon camels. The exportation of the best rhubarb is prohibited by the Chinese, under the severest penalties. It is procured, however, in sufficient quantities, sometimes by clandestinely mixing it with inferior roots, and sometimes by means of a contraband trade. The College of Commerce at Petersburg is solely empowered to receive this drug, and appoints agents at Kiachta for that purpose. Much care is taken in the choice: for it is examined, in the presence of the Bucharin merchants, by an apothecary, commissioned by government, and resident at Kiachta. All the worm-eaten roots are rejected; the remainder are bored through, in order to ascertain their soundness; and all the parts which appear in the least damaged or decayed are cut away. By these means even the best roots are diminished a sixth part, and the refuse is burnt, in order to prevent its being brought another year."

These extracts, unaccompanied as they are by the useful details of the prices of the articles enumerated, will serve to shew the nature of M. Dillon's work. The extended researches of Müller are as yet confined to the state-depositories of Russia; and it is therefore the more important to have the outlines, and such information as has transpired, thus laid before the British nation. We have only to add, that there is also an excellent sketch of Kamtchatka, the Aleutian, and other isles on the far-north coast of America, and of the fur-trade pursued there by the Russians. Every line of the publication is, indeed, a valuable contribution to our acquaintance with matters of much commercial and national consequence, of which we know far too little.

Self-Devotion; or, the History of Katherine Randolph. By the Author of "The Only Daughter." Edited by the Author of "The Subaltern," &c. London, Colburn.

If the *History of Katherine Randolph* were not what it is, a tale of rare merit and very engrossing interest, the melancholy circumstances under which it comes before the public would

at once disarm criticism. The posthumous publication of a young and highly-gifted creature, for whose delicate frame the spirit was too busy, is no fit subject for the reviewer to examine with microscopic eye. Callous as his vocation may be supposed to render him, the critic cannot look abroad for defects in style or matter in such a work as this; he must accept it with all its faults, be they ever so glaring, kindly at least, if not gratefully. But when, as in the present instance, we find in every page manifestations of great power, as well as of a correct and beautiful taste, there remains for him little else than to mourn while he reads that one more victim should have been offered up on the altar which has devoured so many of nature's best and fairest masterpieces. How sad it is to think that the fire of genius should so often consume the heart that gives it nourishment! how grievous to remember that they who are best qualified to adorn and to improve human life should, in so many instances, be prematurely taken away from it!

Self-Devotion; or, the History of Katherine Randolph, is, like *The Only Daughter*, a tale of domestic rather than of busy life; though in the former drama the actors play for higher, or at least more startling, stakes than in the latter. The self-devotion displayed is that of a sister towards her twin-brother. We become first acquainted with Julian and Katherine Randolph when they are mere children; and we follow their fortunes through many well-described changes till they arrive at maturity. Yet the love of the sister for the brother, though put to some severe trials, never wavers. She is his counsellor and confidant, when involved in pecuniary difficulties; she makes what are to her prodigious sacrifices in order to set him free. But we must not tell the tale; and only say that the character of Katherine Randolph is as admirable, both in its conception and details, as any which has ever found its way into a work of fiction. Katherine is, in all her acts and sentiments, the perfect woman, such as only a perfect woman could describe. We give to her, from the beginning to the close of the tale, our truest love and deepest sympathy.

The rest of the characters in this well-constructed story are Mr. and Mrs. Randolph; the former a Scottish clergyman, of a highly cultivated mind, and warm, but unaffected, piety; the latter a weak, silly woman, who, boasting her descent from a noble house, pines and frets to find herself cut off, in the manse of Killurie, from the state and luxuries to which in early life she had been accustomed. Then we have Keith Chisholm and his sister Marion, the representatives of an ancient house which has fallen into decay. General and Miss Frides; precisely such people as are included in the list of every body's acquaintances who is at all familiar with Highland society. Lord De Mar, colonel of the regiment in which Julian obtains his commission; and the Lady Ida, between whom and the young ensign a strong attachment is formed. Both of these are admirably sustained throughout; and both being out of the part of ordinary life, there was needed no slight skill to manage them in the varying situations into which they are thrown. Uncle Fletcher too, the rich nabob, who first of all announces his intention to adopt Julian, and, taking offence at the young man's fancied neglect, ultimately disinherits him, is painted with the brush of a master. We are not quite sure that the same degree of praise can be bestowed on Major Moira, our young hero's rival. It is evident that the lamented authoress was too little conversant with the workings of an

evil heart, or even of a coarse nature, to describe him well; and hence, in this instance, not less than in her delineation of scenes in a mess-room and a court of justice, she must be admitted to have fallen somewhat short of the standard of perfection.

It is not, however, on account of the exceeding delicacy with which individual characters are sketched, that *Self-Devotion* is entitled to take a high place among modern works of fiction. The story is told, from first to last, with infinite skill; incident arising out of incident with such perfect propriety, that you are never for a moment induced to ask how such and such an event could have come to pass. And then the style is so pure—so vigorous—yet so full of poetry, that you linger over the very descriptions of places with the same sort of delight with which you would gaze upon the scenes were they spread out visibly before you. How beautiful is the following sentence!

"It was a soft calm evening in August, the very height of the Highland summer, and every thing in and about the little manse took the sweet and cheerful character which nature borrows from the influence of sunshine, and which, in the same proportion, virtue lends to the features of the human face."

The description of a Highland home, where misfortune has prevailed in the struggle, and decay makes its approach:—

"The moon was shedding her mystic and spiritual radiance over a narrow Highland strath of most surpassing beauty, as a solitary horseman turned the abrupt angle of the road which brought him to the entrance of the de- file. To those who are already familiar with the sublimity of a Highland moonlight, one breath upon the chords of memory will recall such a scene as I would fain describe: to communicate it to the imagination of those who are ignorant of the reality, all the energies of the writer may be exercised in vain. It was a small and narrow valley, with a range of glorious mountains on either hand, piled one upon another till their cragged and broken outline seemed to touch the skies, and lent to the beautiful and smiling glen an aspect of even unusual solitude. At one or two points in the short stretch which the vale afforded, the hills seemed to recede from one another, forming small vistas, which, though all were connected with the larger strath by one common circle of mountains, severally revealed a wild hamlet with its knolls, and its pine-trees, its silver stream, and its own peculiar boundary. There is something in these broken glimpses which gives an exquisite variety to a Highland picture; and in this case, without breaking in upon the seclusion or diverting the eye from the nobler prospect before it, the little out-shots, as it were, from the vale lent to the whole scene an interest of a peculiarly sweet and touching character. The glen itself was watered by a wandering stream that roamed hither and thither among the meadows, and gave its plaintive music to the night, while the fair and velvet sward was rolled backward to the bases of the hills with never a slope until it joined their very roots; and the shaven fields left ample space for the mysterious shadow of fairy knoll and gnarled wych elm, which here and there the moonlight flung across the glen, till it seemed peopled with wizard shapes. The traveller to whom we have alluded rode along with a quiet and deliberate pace through every winding of the simple mountain-road, till the upper end of the valley was gained, and the fairest picture which it afforded was spread out before him. A small and quiet loch lay sleep-

ing under the shadow of two long lines of hills, which fell with a sheer and most graceful outline to its margin—framing each other in opposing masses of rock and promontory; and lessening and lessening, till they were closed at last by the purple masses of a separate and intersecting range. Near the margin of this loch, where the flat meadow-ground rose undulating into brae and hollow, where the pines were gathered into clumps, and the woods took a richer and more massive umbrage, a handsome and picturesque mansion-house was reared upon the summit of a lawn, that sloped almost imperceptibly to the waters. There was something fanciful in the architecture of the house, with its strange blending of English and Gothic taste, as if the mind that planned it had been whimsical and imaginative in its character; and yet the building was in perfect keeping with the beauty of its site, and rather confirmed than infringed upon the effect of the noble scenery by which it was surrounded. There were magnificent beeches and black massive plane-trees grouped upon the lawn, yet a certain air of neglect was visible in the rushes that overgrew the sward, and in the breaches of the stone balustrade that ran along the terraced front nearest to the loch. Indeed an atmosphere of desolation brooded over the place, for an unbroken silence enveloped it; and darkened windows, and the absence of all ordinary signs of domestic activity, seemed in very unison with the pale and melancholy light that streamed around. The moon hung like a lamp of heaven in the dark blue vault between the summits of the opposing hills, and flung her white shimmering radiance on the water, while the tall chimneys and the arched and pointed roof of the house were just silvered with the beams that rested on their tips. All around the house besides was wrapt in the glorious shadow of the woods and mountains."

Julian fights a duel; and, having killed his man, seeks shelter in a cave not far removed from the manse. A deaf and dumb child, a protégé of Katherine, conveys a pencil-note from him to his sister; who, having borne up with difficulty till the rest of the family are in bed, takes a basket of provisions, and hastens to the spot where the poor fugitive is in hiding. We wish that we could quote the whole of this part of the story, for it is managed with exceeding power; but a specimen must suffice.

"The cave of Clach-na-hard was a large rude chasm in the rock, supported in its arched roof by masses of crag, and floored with the dry sandy gravel which formed the bed of the river and of the lake. A small outlet on the other side admitted the air, and gave egress to the smoke from a torch of dried pine which had been fixed into the sand, and was blazing in the middle of the apartment. Katherine needed a few moments to habituate her vision to the red glare of the burning wood, after the soft pure influence of the starlight; and when she was capable of distinguishing objects around her, she could perceive the beloved and unhappy subject of all her solicitude folded in his plaid and fast asleep. It was a singular scene. The black lichen-covered walls of the cave were now and then displayed by the fitful light of the torch, which sent up a column of smoke in a thousand graceful convolutions to the roof. The ivy that curtained the entrance had penetrated also far into the interior, and wreathed and twined itself, like Calypso's vine, into a graceful drapery of bright green leaves, that clothed the sides of the rock, even at this wintry season, with verdure, and wanted over the snowy pebbles which strewed the sand like

a tessellated pavement. By how many sweet and joyous memories of her happy childhood was the place consecrated to the heart of Katherine, when Keith and Marion used to join the sports which its walls had witnessed, or flee with Julian and herself to its shelter from the summer tempest! Little thought had poor Katherine to bestow on visions such as these, as she passed lightly over the space which divided her from the slumberer. She knelt down upon the ground beside him, and gazed into his face, on which the broad light fell strongly, with such a long and earnest scrutiny as those only have indulged who contemplate the deep and quiet sleep of one beloved and afflicted like him. She held her breath as she hung over him; and her heart swelled with its love and its pity. How changed he was! How different looked he from the beautiful boyish sleeper whom she had visited on the last night of his sojourn within the shelter of his paternal roof! The round fair outline and fresh bloom of his features were gone, and in their place was the worn and melancholy pallor of an exhausted spirit. He had made a pillow of his cap; and the long black curls fell aside from his forehead, leaving its surface visible, not bland and innocent as before, but darkened and knitted with suffering and anxiety. How touching were the pallid features! how tenfold dear the care-worn and saddened brow! One glance at the beautiful and beloved countenance served to convince her that, however reckless and imprudent the impulse which had betrayed him—however impetuous might have been his bearing—of the cold-blooded and selfish crime of the duellist he was incapable. How sweet, and yet how heart-wrung, were the tears which she shed above him!—how she yearned to fold him in her arms, and to proclaim that though all the world forsook him, yet would not she! How she seemed to pour her very soul forth in its passionate supplication to Heaven to shield and succour him! and how she held her breath, and chid the very beating of her heart, lest the deep sleep of a wearied and grief-worn spirit might be broken! There is an exquisite and most peculiar enjoyment in watching the slumber of those most dear to us—in feeling that we love them and tend them while they know it not; and that by our own will we withhold for a while the touch or the syllable which would put us in possession of their waking gratitudo in an instant."

We ought to quote much more; but must stop. We have given no outline of the story; we have enumerated, without attempting to describe, some of the personages by whom its interest is sustained: we do not feel that we should be justified in going further. But we much deceive ourselves, if the book do not command such a circulation as shall render analysis on our part less than unnecessary. The editor, we perceive, alludes in his preface to the "superior judgment and more correct taste" that are displayed in the *Cardinal Virtues*, as contrasted with *Self-Devotion*. To the merits of the *Cardinal Virtues* we gave our willing testimony when the work first appeared; but we see no necessity for the apologetic tone assumed by Mr. Gleig in reference to the volumes which are now before us. We have read them with deep and melancholy interest; and we are sure that they will be dealt with in the same manner by the public at large.

The Christian's Sunday-Companion. By Mrs. J. A. Sargent. Pp. 400. Smith, Elder, and Co. RELIGIOUS topics discussed in prose and verse, and proper lessons for every Sunday in the year.

The History of Hydur Naik, &c.: translated from the original Persian Manuscript in the Library of her most gracious Majesty. By Colonel W. Miles, H.E.I.C. Service. Printed for the Oriental Translation Fund. 8vo, pp. 513. W. H. Allen and Co.; Paris, B. Duprat.

The high-flown verbiage of Persia gives almost a new form to this history; and even the readers well acquainted with Hyder and Tippoo's wars with the English will peruse this version of them with interest. As a sample of the style we offer one quotation:—

"The Nawaub having granted the Sunnuds of the Talookas of the Droog to these devoted friends, after the Droog or hill-fort should have been conquered, both the brothers strove the more to stimulate and incite him to attack the fort, and moved on before him. The Nawaub, therefore, according to the suggestions of these intelligent well-wishers, again marched to the fort, and appointed his chief officers and foudjars to the points of attack. The brave Mussulmans now, in the course of a week, gave convincing proofs of their power to break down the forts and overcome their enemies; and by a path, shewn to them by guides, such a path as the eyes of fancy never figured, nor the imagination of the learned ever conceived, they made their attacks. After a little fighting, the bonds which united the garrison of the fort were broken asunder, and, like falling leaves in autumn, they were dispersed and scattered on all sides, while the besiegers, now fearlessly mounting the hills, beat their drums in token of victory, and watered the swords and spears of their resentment in the blood of the infidels, and beat the black dust of existence out of the bodies of the unfortunate garrison. When the chief heard the drums within the fort, and saw the heads of his men rolling about on the plain of revenge, like the balls of boys at play, he understood well that fortune was now bidding him farewell, and that the genius of wealth and prosperity was about to depart from him. He did, indeed, leave his house armed and ready for the fight; but when he saw that most of his bravest companions were killed or wounded, and that the few men round him were without arms, rubbing their hands and shedding tears, the feet of his firmness failed him, and he stood like a picture painted on a wall; till the brave commandant with other officers came upon him and seized and made him prisoner, and brought him to the presence, in the year 1191. H. Committing him with his women and children to the care of his confidential servants, the Nawaub sent him and them to Puttan. The Nawaub distinguished and rewarded every brave officer and soldier in his army, on this occasion, by giving them presents, dressed of honour, and increase of pay."

But by far the most remarkable passage in the volume is the following, in which we find so exact and extraordinary a prototype of Eastern polity to the late lamentable affairs of Cabul. An English detachment had been cut to pieces, and only two young boys spared. We are then told—

"After this battle, the Nawaub marched on, and pitched his camp opposite the fort of Hurroor, whence he sent the following message, by these two boys, to the captain commanding in the fort. 'Behold the Nawaub Bahadur, like sudden death, is upon your head. He has defeated and plundered the armies of General Smith and Muhammad Ali Khan, and has sent his army with his officers to conquer Arkat; while he himself has arrived by forced marches, with his personal guard, to complete your destruction. He has also put to the sword all the convoy or

escort on the road to Karroor, with the garrison of that fort; and if you have any wish to prolong your life, you must come and seek the protection of the Nawaub's skirt. If not, the Nawaub has determined that on the morrow he will not spare the life of a single man.' The little artless boys, who had seen with their own eyes the men of their party destroyed, and were still in great alarm, entered the fort, and related every circumstance with minute exactness to the captain. The captain, therefore, being a simple honest man, was deceived by this lying story, and relinquished all intention of defending the fort; and getting into his pannikin, accompanied by two or three servants, one or two pioneers, and seven foot soldiers, he went out and met the Nawaub. The Nawaub, who was highly pleased at his arrival, by consoling and comforting him, quieted his apprehensions, and then ordered a separate tent to be pitched for him, and sent him off to occupy it. He did not, however, allow any of his, the captain's, servants, except the pioneers, to remain with him. When the captain had retired from the presence, and entered the tent, and saw that none of his servants had remained with him, he sat down alone in the chair of despondency, looking about him, and, placing the telescope of the discernment of truth on the stand of patience, he viewed the wide extent of the region of understanding, and asked himself what kind of business is this, and how will it end?—In the meanwhile the civil servants of the Nawaub arrived, and in sweet words and soft language began to treat with him respecting the surrender of the fort and the military and other stores contained therein, and requested he would give an order to that effect on the second in command in the fort, who was ready with his troops to defend it; and notwithstanding the captain objected and resisted the demand to surrender the fort, unless after he was permitted to return, the Nawaub's servants would not allow his words any weight, but by fair and foul means they at length compelled him, willing or unwilling, to write an order to surrender the fort and stores, agreeably to the schedule made of them; and then they returned to the presence. The Nawaub now despatched four risalas, or battalions of regular infantry, and a thousand irregular foot, with this order. The officer who was second in command no sooner saw the writing of his superior, than he without hesitation gave a return of the troops composing the garrison, and the guns and stores, with the keys of the fort, to the Nawaub's officer, and quitted the fort, of which the Nawaub's troops took possession, and all the valuable stores were appropriated by the Khodadad government. The servants or troops of the Ram Raja, and the killars, who formed a part of the garrison, the Nawaub marched three times round his camp, as an offering, or sacrifice, for the safety of his troops, and they were then dismissed. A few prisoners of the English garrison were sent to be confined in different forts of the kingdom: and thus, victorious, crossing by forced marches the ghat or pass of Gujul Huttii, the Nawaub returned to make head once more against the English army."

No comment on this could be half so strong as the sad despatches from India a few months ago; till the prospect has just been happily improved by General Pollock's last despatches.

Joseph Jenkins: Leaves from the Life of a Literary Man. By the Author of "Random Recollections," &c. 3 vols. Saunders and Odey. A DIFFERENT-COLOURED drink out of the same

old vat whence was drawn the dregs and lees of the writer's former dribblings. Instead of regurgitations of the worst kind of newspaper (mis-)information, this seems to be a sort of autobiography, swollen into the saleable number of three volumes, with lamentable accounts of the hilarious meetings of the old Cogers and other eminently low societies, and similar trash upon the vulgar surface of London. The author, alias Jenkins, describes himself as a great hulking Scotchman, who lived idly to the age of twenty-four, on an annuity of 120*l.* enjoyed by his poor mother as an officer's widow; and when she died, the big baby was thrown adrift upon the world. As he had shewn literary as well as lazy habits, his north-country friends thought the best way to get rid of him was to advise his coming to London, and writing for his bread. He accordingly journeyed to town with 2*l.* in his sporren or pocket, and fell in love with Regent Street, if we may judge by a long book-filling yarn in praise of that very incongruous locality. But he is yet more amazed, as well he might be, by the multitude of omnibuses plying along the streets (p. 35) in the year 1821, when there was not one of these vehicles in London! He then goes to offer his poem, called the "Universe," to various publishers, whom he caricatures sufficiently to enable us to guess at his impudent personalities; and, being readily found to be an ignorant ass, he is rejected by them in succession, and publishes on his own account, selling three copies of his volume, by which, if not better than his present production, three injudiciously curious purchasers were defrauded of thrice 7*s. 2d.* He then tells an infamous story of two publishers, having declared in his preface that all his narrative is founded on facts; and fills up his pages with all kinds of rubbish, which there is no occasion to shoot here. His next step is to be a newspaper-reporter, upon which laborious and honourable office he reflects the discredit of his own scandalous and unprincipled practices. In this capacity he pretends to have been admitted into the society of authors of talent and reviewers of gentlemanly habits and reputation; but the pictures he draws of them shew that he never could have mixed with any but the very lowest of the pretenders to literature in the former class, and the pot-house companions of inferior periodical criticism in the latter. The worst order of the scurrilous Sunday-press was his Tusculum, and within the walls of a decent house he never was allowed to set his dirty feet.

But we will not go farther into the three piles of street-sweepings of which these volumes are composed. In other parts the writer tries the country, the pathetic, the descriptive, the pious,—but it is "all as one," fourth-rate, tiresome, and stupid. The attempts at humorous anecdote are spun out to nausea, even were the matter good as it is despicable: the pseudosentiment is, however, more laughable, and the style is a capital match to the thoughts; and finally, the religious cant introduced amongst the mass of frivolous and offensive stuff is so obnoxious that it appeared to us to crown the work with the only piece of bookmaking impudence which could be more disgusting than the rest.

Researches in Asia Minor, Pontus, and Armenia; with some Account of their Antiquities and Geology. By W. I. Hamilton, Secretary to the Geological Society. 2 vols. 8vo. J. Murray. In these volumes Mr. Hamilton has rendered invaluable services to the geography and geology of one of the most interesting portions of

the habitable globe; whilst his itinerary and examination of antiquities furnish matter, both relating to the living and the dead world, of the most attractive description. We have this week only time to offer him this public welcome.

Allee Neemroo, the Buchtiarre Adventurer: a Tale of Louristan. By J. Baillie Fraser, Esq., author of "The Kuzzilbash," &c. &c. 3 vols. Bentley.

THE stirring adventures of this Tale, with all the striking characteristics of various races in Persia, perfect pictures of manners, and as perfect reflections of habits of thought and action, lead us from the first page to the last of *Allee Neemroo* with the exciting interest of well-imagined romance. But, when we have done, and look back upon our reading, we discover a new and more important source of satisfaction. We find that we have made ourselves acquainted with much of Persian history, and have, as it were, accompanied a real and most accomplished traveller over several regions of that country. We have been cheated by a narrative of unflagging attraction into a degree of information which it would take long and diligent study to acquire. The author never produced a superior work!

The Natural History of Man; comprising Inquiries into the modifying Influence of physical and moral Agencies on the different Tribes of the Human Family. By James Cowles Prichard, M.D., &c. 8vo, pp. 556. With 36 coloured and 4 plain Illustrations, and 90 Engravings on Wood. London, H. Bailliére.

THIS beautiful work has at length reached completion. It is the first of its kind in this country; and it is satisfactory and praiseworthy in every respect. The subject-matter is digested in that careful manner, briefly yet effectively, which could only be done by one versed and familiar, and long ago distinguished, in this line of inquiry, and which leaves nothing to be desired. The illustrations are really beautiful, and adequate to the purposes of representing the chief races of men; while the philosophy that pervades the whole has already met with our warmest encomiums, and we have no doubt but that all who are interested in the history of the human species—and who is not?—will avail themselves of this valuable manual of anthropology.

We remark that the author dedicates his work to the Chevalier Bunsen, as the representative in this country of a nation among whom his researches have ever been more favourably estimated than among his own utilitarian countrymen. We scarcely think that Dr. Prichard ought to say so much; for his name has always stood foremost among the cultivators of that particular branch of knowledge in which he excels. It may be, that one set of critics have complained of his inquiry as insufficient, and another have accused him of a bigoted and predetermined adherence to one opinion; but we thought his experience was too great to be hurt at these opposing and contradictory views. Every thing is in extremes of party in this country. No man can write for two extremes; and the one from which he differs, from that moment proclaims him as incapable, and even contemptible. If a middle course is steered, then the result is, as Dr. Prichard complains of in his case, that he is abused by both extremes. Let the doctor be certain that there still remains a sufficiency of a thinking and reading community to praise and to reward his labours.

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The Musical Bijou. 1843. D'Almaine and Co. For some time we admired the highly-illuminated covers of the *Bijou*; bright colours tastefully arranged and well executed in chromolithography. Within also are beauty and brilliancy; the title-page very rich and handsome. The contents are a very agreeable selection of old favourite songs, ballads, and duets, by popular authors and composers,—Burns, Byron, Hemans, T. H. Bayly, &c. &c., and Sir H. Bishop, Loder, John Barnett, Rodwell, &c.; upwards of fifty vocal pieces, and a dozen instrumental; fashionable waltzes, galops, mazourkas, and quadrilles. We recognise at least two-thirds of the former as familiar to us as "Home, sweet home," or "Oh no, we never mention her." The Queen's Scotch quadrilles, well-known and delightful native airs, are full of spirit. By the way, why does Mr. J. Parry attach his name as composer to an air as common as the hills in Scotland long before he was born? There must be some mistake; for we cannot conceive possible an assumption so unworthy. Besides what we have enumerated above, there are also portions of the Stabat Mater among the collection. Altogether it is a beautiful *Bijou*, which any lady would be proud to receive as a new-year's gift.

Mrs. Loudon's Flower-Garden. No. XI. Smith. A charming No., in which *Tropaeolum*, *Oxalis*, and splendid *Melianthus dictamnus*, shine in brilliant varieties.

Chemical Gazette. No. I. Conducted by William Francis and Henry Croft, late Students in the Universities of Berlin and Giessen. London, R. and J. E. Taylor.

We have little more to do than to introduce to our readers another periodical whose object is announced to be to bring before the public the earliest accounts of all new discoveries in chemistry, and their applications, whether to medicine and pharmacy, arts and manufactures, or to agriculture. The first number contains 25 translations to this end, besides an introduction, an elementary atomic table, and a review, well selected, and in the spirit of good promise. But a spirit of another kind peeps out in the introduction; an allusion to a coloured wrapper, &c., seems to shadow rivalry and pique to almost a twin-brother, but first born. The *Literary Gazette* has numbered as many years as the articles of the first *Chemical Gazette* contains; and our sage advice, in all friendliness, to the young editors, is, to eschew such spirit, so insidious, and alluring, but only to disappointment: the one right road to respect and to success is independence, tolerance, and universal benevolence—singleness of purpose to welcome and to encourage, and to assist all labourers in the good cause of science who are worthy of their hire.

A Narrative of Voyages and Commercial Enterprises. By R. J. Cleveland. 8vo, double cols. pp. 123. London, Moxon.

Mr. CLEVELAND was a Boston (United States) trader and commander of several merchant-vessels, in which during some quarter of a century he visited various portions of the globe, now much better known than in his earlier days. He seems to have been a brave, enterprising man, and to have undergone many hardships; but we do not find so much of new and important matter in his narrative as to render it generally interesting. His testimony in favour of tee-totalism is perhaps the most noticeable passage in his "log." It seems that, under all his privations and hardships, he never tasted spirituous or malt liquors, and never had an hour's sickness.

The Three Voyages of Captain James Cook. London, W. Smith.

The idea of sitting down at the present day to write a critique on *Cook's Voyages* has something absurd about it; wherever English is known, or can be translated, these famous travels are with it, and form an enviable part of the library of all. In their shape of portly tomes, rich in binding and illustration, they grace the shelves of the noble and the wealthy; in fragmentary numbers, in vile type and mutilated text, they are found in the cottages of the poor and lowly, affording equal delight to the reader who follows the adventurous navigator, whether he be peer or peasant, rich or poor. How simple, then, the reviewer's task! he has merely to announce that another edition is added to the many that have preceded; and he might anticipate that many more will follow, had it not been for that before him. Mr. Smith has published plenty of standard works in a cheap form, many of which have received the praise so justly due to them in the columns of the *Lit. Gaz.*; but all that has gone before is faint praise to the welcome we now give to Part XIII. of *Cook's Voyages*. Admirably printed, avoiding double columns, profusely illustrated, and plentifully garnished with maps, it is at once an honour to the publisher's enterprise, and a real boon to readers whose purses are not so well stored as they wish their minds to be. This Number completes the work, which forms two very handsome volumes, calculated to adorn any bookcase, and published at such a price as to place it within the reach of all classes.

The Spirit of Judaism. By Grace Aguilar, of Hackney, England. Edited by Isaac Leeser, of Philadelphia. Pp. 255. London, P. Richardson.

MISS AGUILAR is an earnest advocate for the strict adherence of the Hebrew people to the faith of their ancestors; but is adverse to some of the traditions. She draws a very favourable picture of the benevolence and other good qualities of the Jews, and of their worship of one almighty Jehovah, founding nearly the whole on a due consideration of the *Shemang*, or first lesson taught to the children of the children of Israel. The volume is written with good sense and in a good spirit; and will, we think, be very acceptable to all the co-religionists of the author.

A popular History of British India, commercial Intercourse with China, and the insular Possessions of England in the Eastern Seas. By W. C. Taylor, LL.D., &c. Pp. 508. Madden and Co.

This title explains the nature of the work; and the name of the compiler, Dr. W. C. Taylor, vouches for the character of a sound compilation, suited for popular reading and information, without going into difficult questions or elaborating historical facts. Nearly one half, the latter, relates to the Burmese and Chinese wars, and is somewhat out of proportion with all the great and earlier events which are to be found in the best Oriental historians.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

SURNAMES.

To the Editor of the *Literary Gazette*.

October 3, 1842.

SIR,—Your facetious correspondent, *B. A. Oxon*, though himself a lineal descendant of the lordly Bull, *Ba* being evidently a contraction of "Baal," as the Irish write *Pat* for "Patrick," and his family designation (*Ox-on*)

as evidently neither a *sir-name** nor a *sire-name*, but, to the eye as well as to the ear, a *sur-name*, had certainly no occasion to go "far a-field" for what he could find so near at home. With *Ba Ox-on* "staring him in the face," and "printed in black and white before him," he must be a very dry subject indeed, if he did not cry with laughing.

But seriously, sir, your correspondent is too acute a critic to rest satisfied with his own suggestion; and his mode of bringing it forward testifies as much. "Why not," he asks, "be content with the single form *sur-name*?" I answer. Because it is *untrue*. The name which a man brings with him into the world can by no possibility be his *sur-name*: it is the name of his father, and consequently his *sire-name*; and as with the name he also succeeds to the rank of his parent, it may with propriety be called his *sir-name*. His *sur-name*, however, is that which is *super-added* at his baptism; and this the whole civilised world have agreed to call his *Christian name*.

And now, sir, let us bring this word *surname* to the test; and I know of no passage better calculated for doing so than the Septuagint translation of Amos ix. 12:—ΕΦ' οὐσ. ΕΠΙΚΛΑΥΤΑΙ τοι οὐρανοὶ ΕΓΓ. avvros. Here we have a perfect surplusage of *surs*; and yet all these have been condensed by our translators into one little word, *by*—“which are called *by* my name.” In fact, I know but of two passages in which the word *surname* occurs in the English version of the Old Testament; and in both of those the Hebrew distinctly signifies a title of authority or honour—*blandius circumloqui, adulari, titulo honoris insigni*.

On the word *bull*, your correspondent speaks in the same hesitating manner. "We at least may be satisfied with finding our word *bull* in the Anglo-Saxon." But where, I ask, did the Saxons find it? Was not their god *Thor* a bull? And is not this word *Thor*, like the Greek *tavpos* and the Latin *taurus*, derived from the Chaldee *tur*, synonymous with the Hebrew *sur*? And if our ancestors thought fit to call their *Baal Thor*, I do not see why they might not, with equal propriety, call his taurine representative *Baal*. After having appropriated the name of the bull to their god, they would be under a kind of necessity of bestowing the honorary title of their god upon the bull—no other word being left unappropriated, and no other animal without a name. This may perhaps afford us a clue to the right understanding of what took place at Babel, when the Lord said, "Let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."—I am, sir, your constant reader,

REMARKS ON THE ACTION OF CARBON, &c.

To the Editor of the *Literary Gazette*.

48 Russell Square, Nov. 8, 1842.

SIR,—I beg leave to tender my sincerest thanks for your kind notice in the last *Gazette* of my recent discoveries on the treatment of diseases of the eye, &c. Allow me to intrude for once in your crowded columns by referring to what you accidentally omitted, viz. my manner of applying the bisulphuret of carbon, and also to add a few reasons illustrative of the fact which you have quoted from me, that its action depends on its union with the oxygen. The plan I adopt is this:—I put a drachm of the bisulphuret of carbon into two-ounce bottle:

* Our present facetious, and not unlearned, correspondent, taking a part for the whole, might have a quip at Sir-loins upon this *argumentum ad bovem*.—Ed. L. G.

the medicine is so volatile that the heat of the hand causes the vapour rapidly to rise, and come into contact with the skin. The action is more decided if the skin is previously moistened with water, as the water not only prevents the escape of the vapour between the glass and the skin, but also excludes the external air, a point of the very highest importance. In my paper, which appeared in the *Lancet* of October 29th, I stated that, "when it had been applied about one minute, the patient felt the part very cold, but immediately after a gradual heat, accompanied with great prickling,—the heat increasing the longer the medicine was kept in contact with the part, until it could no longer be endured. On removing the glass the part was red, to an extent two or three times greater than the part enclosed. These applications occasion no injury whatever to the skin." Shewing that the action of the bisulphuret of carbon depends on its union with the oxygen in the blood-vessels, I will merely state the following experiments:—Carbonic acid gas was applied in a similar bottle, and in the same way, to the skin, the external air being excluded, and the skin moistened with water for the space of ten minutes; but neither redness nor any sensible heat was induced; for this satisfactory reason, that heat is the consequence of oxidation with the carbon, which oxidation, in the case of carbonic acid gas, had of course been previously effected. Alcohol, sulphuric ether, nitric ether, and many other ethers—all of which contain a large portion of carbon—were similarly tried, but had no effect; for the same reason, viz. that it is already in a state of union with oxygen in all these highly carbonised bodies.—I remain, sir, your obedient servant,

A. TURNBULL, M.D. &c.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

THE EGYPTO-PRUSSIAN EXPEDITION.

The last letters from this expedition (for the constitution and departure of which see *Literary Gazette*, No. 1337, p. 618) state that they are all well at Cairo; but, owing to the occurrence of the Ramadan, and consequent delay, would not be able to proceed on their destination till the end of October. The following is an extract from one of the letters:—

"The Nile rose two palms three days ago—a thing unusual; it is still spread over the country in sufficient abundance, it is considered, to secure a plentiful harvest. There has been a terrible mortality among the oxen; the pasha, it is said, has lost thirty thousand of his own. The approach to every village is rendered extremely offensive to the sight and the smell by several of the carcasses of these animals in different stages of decay. This and the late increase of the Nile is said to portend much evil. Plague and its accompaniments are expected in the spring; so say the resident Franks."

NEW MARINE INSTRUMENTS.

The sillometer and marine thermometer, invented by M. Clement, as well as his steam-thermometer, have been the subjects of recent experiments on board the Lightning, royal steamer, by official report, greatly to the satisfaction of the Lords of the Admiralty. The two former instruments being in our estimation the most valuable and novel, we select from the report the following:—

Sillometer.—The sillometer has dial upon deck which constantly shews the number of miles per hour that the vessel is going; consequently it is easy to discover, under all circum-

stances, what is the best trim of the vessel, and the most advantageous quantity and distribution of the sails for obtaining the greatest speed. As the sillometer shews immediately the effect which every alteration in the sails or trim of the ship has on its velocity, it follows also that ships fitted with the sillometer can constantly maintain the speed they may have agreed upon, and so keep company together, and maintain the same relative position, though, from the darkness of the night, or thickness of the weather, they cannot see each other. To ascertain the distance run after any number of hours, it is simply to take the number of minutes one of the watches of the sillometer has gained over the other, and to multiply that number by six, which gives the distance run in miles.

Marine Thermometer.—From the trials on board the Lightning it appears that the marine thermometer, in its variations, followed the inequalities of the bottom of the sea, so far as these inequalities could be ascertained from the heating of the lead, or from the information of the pilot; that is, on the approach to shoal-water the thermometer fell, and on the approach to deep water it rose, and distinguished the difference very distinctly and rapidly, according to the transition from shallow to deep water, and vice versa. It may therefore be inferred, that the marine thermometer would indicate the approach to rocks and icebergs from the influence these bodies are known to have on the temperature of the sea for a considerable distance. The dial of the marine thermometer is also on deck, and shews, by inspection merely, the exact depth of water in which the vessel may be sailing at the time.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

November 4th.—W. Payne, vice-president, in the chair. Read: 1. "Remarks on aroma," by Mr. J. Mackay. The inquiry was, whether a volatile body, which greatly increases the fragrance of odorous substances, decomposes and alters the composition of such body, producing a new compound; or whether it acts merely as a vehicle; or, farther, by a mechanical transposition of the particles of the substances combined. 2. A paper "On the Ceylon Cardamom," by Dr. Pereira. The scitamineous plant which bears the fruit known in commerce as the wild or Ceylon cardamom is little known. Dr. Pereira has no doubt that it belongs to the genus *Elettaria*, enters extensively into proofs, and adopts the specific name assigned to it by Sir J. E. Smith—*Elettaria major*. Dr. Pereira's botanical description is as follows:—

Rhizome with numerous branching root-fibres. Stem erect, smooth, enveloped by numerous leaf-sheaths. Leaves sessile (or nearly so) on their sheaths, silky beneath, acuminate; the shorter ones lanceolate, the larger ones oblong-lanceolate or slightly obovate-lanceolate; breadth two to three inches, length not exceeding fifteen inches. Leaf-sheaths about half the length of the leaves, with a roundish ligula. Scape from the upper part of the rhizome, flexuous, jointed, nine inches long, branched; the branches alternate, one from each joint of the scape, suberect, half an inch long, supporting two or three pedicels of about three-tenths of an inch long. Bracts solitary, sheathing, at each joint of the scape withered; partial ones solitary, ovate, acute. Flowers not present on my specimen. Inflorescence probably panicled. Calyx three-lobed. Capsules lanceolate-oblong, acutely triangular, more or less curved, with flat and ribbed sides; length about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, breadth $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch. At one extremity there is usually found the long cylindrical, per-

manent, three-lobed calyx. Each branch of the scape supports one or two capsules. Pericarp, in the dried state, coriaceous, tough, brownish, or yellowish ash-coloured, three-celled. Seeds angular, rugged, with a yellowish or red hue; odour fragrant, aromatic, peculiar; flavour aromatic, spicy, but not acrid and fiery, like that of the Malagueta pepper. Perennial; native of Ceylon; cultivated at Kandy. Grows in shady situations in a rich mixed soil."

This *Elettaria*, the author says, has erroneously identified with the plant bearing the hot acrid seeds known in this country by the name of *Grains of Paradise*, sometimes called *Guinea grains*. A paper on the "*Alpinia granum Paradisi*" was reserved for the next meeting. The seeds of the Ceylon cardamom resemble caraways in taste, and are used for seasoning dishes, &c.

3. A communication from Mr. Ince, "On the preparation of blistering-plaster." It had reference to a paper of Mr. Donovan's, which set forth the advantages of applying a high temperature in this preparation. Mr. Ince stated a case in which some blistering-plaster, found to be deficient in power, was submitted to the action of heat at a temperature of 230° for about half an hour, with the view of increasing its activity: the plaster was gently stirred; the operator was suddenly seized with giddiness, and in a few hours was frightfully blistered, especially in the inner part of the eyelids; fever supervened, &c. Reference also was made to the inactivity of newly made blister-plaster, and the effect of age on its vesicating principles. An interesting conversation ensued, from which may be gleaned that age does not affect the vesicating power of the cantharides, at least for several years; that it is advisable to prepare it at a temperature above 212° , so that the watery particles may be driven off, and future mouldiness prevented; that cantharadine, however, sublimes at about 300° , so that the temperature should be between the extremes stated above, or about 250° , as proposed by Mr. Donovan. Possibly the operator mentioned by Mr. Ince permitted the temperature to increase beyond 300° , and was the victim of sublimation. Practically, after the preparation of the plaster, the question arises, whether the thumb be not better than a hot spatule to spread it for use; and advisedly to attendants on beds of suffering the hint comes, not to hold a blister too long to the fire before it be put on, or the full effect may be lost, and danger result from such delay.

Specimens of sassafras wood and root were on the table. Mr. Fowles submitted *theine* and *caffeine*, which he had extracted from tea and coffee, described the mode of the extraction of the former, mentioned the identity of these substances, and the singularity of their being, as yet, however, only known in tea and coffee, and recommended their being sought for in other plants or their products.

METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Nov. 8.—Mr. J. W. G. Gutch in the chair. The first paper read was by Mr. J. Atkinson, and entitled "Results of experiments on situation, shape, and size of rain-gauges." The objects Mr. Atkinson had in view in instituting these experiments were: 1. as to the difference which the height of rain-gauges above the surface made in the amount of rain received by each gauge; 2. the effect of an enclosed funnel which would always present itself towards the wind; 3. to test the action of a gauge made of copper, and presenting a sphere on which rain-drops, whether they fell at an angle or perpen-

dicularly, would be received with equal certainty; 4. to investigate whether any and what difference the size of the funnel made in the quantity of rain received. The results, as found by Mr. Atkinson, were as follows:—1. As far as regards height, a full confirmation of Prof. Phillips' previous experiments; the receipt of the gauge on the surface being more than of that three feet above, as the receipt of the latter is more than that at six feet above the surface. 2. The inclined funnel was found in all strong winds to take considerably more rain than the horizontal funnel; while in calm winds it of course took less. 3. The action of the sphere during these experiments was singular, and is worthy of notice. The sum received by it, and the mean of the sums received by the horizontal and inclined funnels, for the first three months, being only 0·010 *more* than the mean of the other two gauges. 4. The result of the experiment on the size of the gauges is remarkable, as shewing that the larger funnel has uniformly received *less* rain than the smaller; a result which (as Prof. Phillips observed at the last meeting of the British Association) would seem to deserve confirmation. Twelve inches Mr. Atkinson considers as the best diameter for practical purposes.

The next paper read was one "On the comparative fall of rain during the months that the sun is in conjunction or opposition of the planet Saturn, and those during which he is in the same position with the planet Mars," by Lieut. Morrison, R.N. The conclusion that the author of this paper comes to, from experiments and calculations extending back for a long series of years, is, that it would appear to be a law of nature, that the hygrometric condition of the air is affected by the earth passing in a right line with the sun and the above-named planets, Mars and Saturn; and the mean fall of rain monthly is found to be under the influence of Mars as to that of Saturn as 1988: to 3666; nearly as 10 to 12. An interesting communication, by Oswald Wood, M.D., on a storm occurring at Antigua, in August last, was also read.

ELECTRICAL SOCIETY.

Oct. 18.—A preserved specimen of *Gymnotus electricus* was presented to the society by Mr. W. Hawkins. This animal is the third which Mr. Hawkins has endeavoured to procure alive for the society; but which did not survive the voyage. He intends to persevere until he succeeds in presenting one alive. This specimen is now in the hands of Mr. Lethby to undergo dissection.

A letter from a non-resident member, Mr. Phillips, was read, detailing the particulars of a distressing accident, in which two children lost their lives by a lightning-stroke which fell on a small toll-house at S. Blazey, Cornwall, in which they had taken refuge. It is worthy of remark, that within a hundred yards on the one side of this hut was a high house, and on the other an elevated crane, &c.: these were untouched. The sketch which accompanied the communication represents the toll-house on the border of a stream. The damage done to a vessel during the same storm is also described.

A translation, by the secretary, of a portion of M. Becquerel's paper "On the electro-chemical properties of simple bodies, and on their application to the arts," was then read. This portion was principally introductory to the description of the manipulation of gold by the joint aid of chemistry and electricity, dependent on electrolytic operations. The author describes at some length the treatment of gold

ore, and details the several methods of washing it, with the relative advantages. He experimented upon specimens of ore furnished him by the Russian government, and shewed that, beyond certain limits, pounding and washing were loss, and not gain. The subject will be resumed at a future meeting, when that portion of the paper in which the practical application of the principles of electrolysis will be described.

A brief abstract of Mr. Prater's opinions "On electrical and chemical affinity" was then read, and Mr. Weekes's electro-meteorological register for September laid before the society.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY.

Nov. 4.—Mr. H. C. Watson in the chair. Mr. R. Ranking presented a monstrous *Plantago caroliniana*, collected at Hastings, shewing the easy and natural transition from a spike to a raceme; also a specimen of *Dactylis glomerata* in which the glumes were become foliaceous. The chairman presented a *Cnicus Forsteri*, which he said corresponded exactly with the cultivated species preserved in Smith's Herbarium. The specimen exhibited by Mr. W. was also a cultivated one—the root having been found near Whitemoor Pond, in Surrey, in June 1841, and flowering specimens of it exhibited before the society last year. The wild ones had from two to four flowers only on each stem, whilst the cultivated had ten or a dozen each. Mr. W. exhibited the *Cnicus Forsteri* for the purpose of pointing out the differences between it and the *Cnicus pratensis*—branched examples of the latter species having been in several instances mistaken for the former species. Numerous donations to the library, herbarium, and museum, were announced. The commencement of a paper was read from Mr. G. Clark, of the Island of Mahé (communicated by Mr. H. W. Martin), "On *Lodoicea Sechellarum*."

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AT BERLIN.

Sitting of 23d May, 1842.—From a report read by M. H. Rose, on a work by M. Alfredjew (of Katharinenburg) on the composition of glucina, the following conclusions are drawn. But first it may be stated, that M. Alfredjew prepared several salts of glucina, and among them the sulphate of glucina, which he has obtained in large crystals, according to the process described by Berzelius, who asserted this salt to be an acid salt. M. Alfredjew considers it a neutral salt. He also experimented with the chloride of glucinium, not known in the time of Berzelius; with chrysoberyl, by analysis; and with double sulphate of glucina and soda. This salt is slightly soluble, like the analogous salts of thoria and yttria; and among the several attempts made to combine the sulphate of glucina with the sulphate of soda, only one succeeded, and that where the soda and glucina contained the same quantity of oxygen. This double salt has, moreover, a composition very different to that of alum; and glucina appears consequently to form another class of double salts like alumina. A salt similar in composition to this double salt is the fluoride of glucinium and potassium, first obtained by Berzelius. Glucinium and potassium both take equal quantities of fluorine. The conclusion drawn as to the composition of glucina is, that it contains only one atom of oxygen; and the centesimal atomic weight of glucina is, according to this hypothesis, 158·084, and that of glucinium 58·084. The neutral sulphate of glucina, which Berzelius considered an acid salt, has been acknowledged by M. Alfredjew to present a combination very ana-

logous to that determined by that celebrated chemist. Its crystals may be obtained of a very large size—octohedral, with a square base. It encloses four atoms of water. The formula of the compounds of glucina met with in nature—the euclase, beryl, emerald, &c.—is much simplified by the adoption of the new atomic weight G. The old formula—for the emerald, for instance—contained very questionable silicates.

PARIS LETTER.

Paris, Nov. 4, 1842.

Academy of Sciences: sitting of October 31.—The report of the commission, consisting of M.M. Elie de Beaumont, Biot, and Lionville, on the memoir by M. A. Bravais, was read by the former. The memoir contained principally the results of observations on the lines of the ancient level of the sea in Finmark; the erosion, at a recent geological period, of very extensive parts of Scandinavia and the British Isles, &c. &c. M. Bravais's work on Finmark, where he had resided more than a year, not far from the 71st parallel of northern latitude, was also the subject of the report, which was of considerable length. M. Elie de Beaumont highly eulogised the work, which, he said, independently of the new and interesting facts brought to enrich science, will have the advantage of making more clear how geology may become an exact science; and he demanded that it should be printed in the *Recueil des Savants étrangers*, unless it were appointed to form part of the special work drawn up by the commission of which M. Bravais was one.

M. Arago announced that a new telescopic comet had been discovered at the Paris Observatory, within a few hours of each other, by M. Laugier and by M. Mauvais. M. Laugier had priority. The comet was seen by him for the first time on the 28th Oct., at 13^h 1^m 42^s; Paris mean time, counting from mid-day. It had—

Right ascension . . . = 16^h 42^m 10^s 29

Declination . . . + 68° 33' 39" 9

The weather of the 29th did not allow an observation. On the 30th it was seen at 7^h 55^m 44^s mean time as above. Its position was—

Right ascension . . . = 17^h 1^m 23^s 23

Declination . . . + 65° 41' 54" 3.

It is seen from these two observations that the right ascension of the comet increased 10^m 44^s in 24 hours; and that the declination diminished 1° 41' 42" in the same space of time.

From the 28th to the 30th, the brilliancy of the comet had considerably augmented. On the 30th, a prolongation of the cometary light, in a direction opposed to the sun, was perceived; whilst on the 28th the light of the comet was so weak, that it was lost to sight so soon as any foreign light entered the eye.

M. Cauchy laid upon the table a note on the principal differences which exist between luminous and sonorous waves.

M. de Humboldt forwarded the following extract of a letter, which he had received from M. Möser, of Königsberg:—

"I am now enabled to give you some explanation of this curious image, which M. Rauch has seen appear on the interior of a glass, placed, during a great number of years, before an engraving, but without being in contact with it. I have myself often seen a similar image on porcelain, but without having then paid much attention to it. A series of experiments and direct observations have put me in the way of the phenomenon, which is so well

known among the framers of engravings, that all at Königsberg speak of it as a very common thing. I found, in my first experiment, that fortunately no very long time was necessary to produce the images. I obtained them by the invisible rays on glass in two days. I employed no vapour. The glass had a whiter tint on the part altered by the invisible rays. The image was very distinct, and easily destroyed by rubbing. In this first experiment there had been contact; it was necessary to operate at a distance. An engraved plate remained nine days at a distance of from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ of a line from the glass. The image of the engraved part of the plate was as distinct on the glass as by immediate contact. I have obtained these same images on copper, brass, zinc, and even on gold, in five days. They are of great delicacy, but easily destroyed by rubbing.

Having determined already that there is no product of a certain kind of rays which may not be produced by rays of another refrangibility, I foresaw that the phenomena would be the same if I employed visible light of a suitable intensity. I have easily succeeded in obtaining those images on copper, glass, silver, and brass. Occupied at this time with other experiments which interest me exceedingly, I have not been able to pursue the phenomenon in rarefied air. I hope to have it in my power to communicate to you soon some curious results on the transmission of the invisible rays* through some substances."

M. Feldman wrote that keratoplasty experiments made with M. Davis at Munich sanctioned his announcing as certain the following facts:—1. A cornea detached entirely from the eye of an animal, and rejoined by sutures, became again adhered. 2. The same effect is reproduced with a cornea detached from the eye of one animal, in transplanting it on the eye of another animal, even of another species. 3. The success of such an implantation, as well as of the transplantation, appears to be more certain when the crystalline is separated from the eye, either accidentally or intentionally. 4. By these experiments there can be obtained a partial transparency of the implanted cornea.

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

CAMBRIDGE, Nov. 2.—The following degrees were conferred:—

Doctor in Physic.—W. H. Ranking, Cath. Hall.

Masters of Arts.—W. Sherwood, Cath. Hall; T. J. Rowell, St. John's College; H. Nicholson, Emanuel College; J. Ellis, Pembroke College.

Bachelors in the Civil Law.—G. Miller, W. Peard, Trinity Hall.

Bachelors of Arts.—R. W. Parker, Cath. Hall; A. H. Novello, Trinity College.

The following gentlemen were admitted *ad eundem*: H. Randolph, M.A., All Souls, Oxford; W. Taylor, M.A., Balliol College, Oxford.

ASIATIC SOCIETY.

This society commenced its meetings for the season on the 5th instant, when Lord Fitzgerald and Veschi took the chair. A large number of books, &c., presented to the library and museum, were laid before the members.

The secretary read a letter which had been addressed to him by Mr. W. H. Morley, containing a detailed notice of a manuscript of the *Jami al Tuarikh* of Rashid al Din, recently discovered in the library of the East India

Company by Prof. Falconer. We have before had occasion to advert to the successive steps of this very curious discovery, which is one of considerable value to the student of Oriental history, the greater part of the work having been lost for upwards of five centuries. Its importance may be inferred from the choice made of the known portion for the first volume of the magnificent *Collection Orientale*, printed at the cost of the French government. The subject of that portion of the work is, the history of the dominion of the Mongols in Persia. The object of Mr. Morley's letter was, to give some account of the hitherto unknown. After premising that the *Jami al Tuarikh* is a collection of histories, each forming a work of itself, distinct from the others, Mr. Morley proceeded to state that the first part of the MS. contained a general history of Persia and Arabia, to the fall of the Caliphate, beginning, as usual, with Adam and Eve, Noah, &c. A great deal of this portion is contained in the Arabic translation of parts of Rashid al Din's history, discovered two or three years previous in the library of the late Col. Bailly and in that of the Royal Asiatic Society. This is followed by a history of the Ghaznavide, Samanide, and Bovide kings, to the year 547 of the Hegira. The third portion is the history of the Seljuks; the fourth, that of Oghuz, and the other khans and sultans of the Turks; then follows the history of Khatai, and the kings of China, the history of the children of Israel, that of the kings of the Franks, from Adam to the author's time. This part, as might have been expected, is little more than a list of misspelt names of popes and emperors. The next division comprises the history of the sultans of India and of the Hindus. This is the portion contained, nearly entire, in the MS. before alluded to, belonging to the Royal Asiatic Society, and is of much historical interest. A short and curious treatise on the metempsychosis follows. The remainder of the MS. contains the general preface of the whole work, together with the *Tuarikh-i-Ghazani*, which forms, as we have noticed, the first volume of the French *Collection Orientale*.

On a comparison of the work with the general preface, it appears that a portion of the life of Oljaita Khadabandah (who was on the throne when the work was completed) is still wanting, as well as a volume of geographical charts, routes, &c.; but Mr. Morley gives some reason for concluding that the last volume was never written; the other deficient portion is of minor importance; and, with these exceptions, we have Rashid al Din's work complete. Mr. Morley is now preparing for publication the text of the history of the Hindus (the eighth portion of this MS.). He states that he has collated it with the MS. of the Royal Asiatic Society, and that a considerable quantity is already transcribed. He is also preparing a translation of the whole work, to be printed under the auspices of the Oriental Translation Committee.

ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS.

CARRIED, probably, from the Abbey of Clairvaux, it is stated that there has been found in the library of Troyes an amazingly fine square manuscript of the Ven. Bede's Commentary on St. Augustine and the Epistles of St. Paul, and said to be in many parts far superior to the extant printed copies. It is of the eighth or early in the ninth century. In the same library of Troyes (adds the *Oxford Herald*, quoting the *Journal des Savans*) are many MSS. formerly belonging to Port-Royal, and among them more than 300 volumes entirely composed

of the writings and autograph correspondence of the illustrious solitaries of that celebrated retreat. They are almost wholly in the French language, and contained in thirty portfolios, exclusively filled with the letters of Arnould, Ancelot, de Sacy, the Abbé de Rancé, St. Cyran, la Mère Angélique, Etemane and Hamon, and of individuals who were in correspondence with these distinguished characters. One MS. in particular is entitled to attention, consisting of a life of Pascal by Mademoiselle Perier, his niece; letters from Pascal to Mademoiselle de Roanez; the correspondence of several members of Pascal's family with the Mère Agnes, Arnould, and Nicolle; letters from the Duchesse de Longueville, the Procureur-Général de Harlay, and other celebrated personages of that period. This MS. also contains some *pensées* of Pascal, which are perhaps inedited, and disclose some interesting particulars in his life. It does not appear to have been consulted by any of the French writers who have composed biographies of Pascal, although Reuchlin, in his recent German life, seems to have been acquainted with some portions of it.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK:—

Monday.—Geographical, 8½ P.M.; Medical, 8 P.M.
Tuesday.—Linnean, 8 P.M.; Electrical, 8 P.M.; Chemical, 8 P.M.
Wednesday.—Society of Arts, 8 P.M.; Geological, 8½ P.M.; Microscopical, 8 P.M.
Thursday.—Royal, 8½ P.M.; Antiquaries, 8 P.M.
Friday.—Botanical, 8 P.M.
Saturday.—Asiatic, 2 P.M.; Westminster Medical, 3 P.M.; Mathematical, 8 P.M.

FINE ARTS.

ROYAL ACADEMY.

ON Monday three new associates were added to the ranks of the Royal Academy; and we are glad to state that the election fell on three artists (we cannot say rising, but) of already established distinction, viz. Mr. Creswick, Mr. F. Grant, and Mr. Hollins.

BRITISH GALLERY.

THE directors' and private view of the annual copies of old masters by rising artists, at the British Gallery, took place on Wednesday; when we found some fine pictures by Van Dyke, Ruyssdael, Sasso Ferrato, Vandekoter, and others, liberally left by their owners for the study of our native school. The opportunity, we are sorry to say, did not seem to have been much or sedulously cultivated. There were not many studies, and few of promise; though there were some which it is unnecessary to particularise, out of regard for the failures of the more immature candidates. Two Vandykes, the Ruyssdael, and a beautiful Madonna head by Sasso Ferrato, were the chief favourites for imitation.

ARCHITECTURE: NEW NATIONAL COLLEGE.

IN our last *Gazette* we noticed the *Wykham Society*, an institution of young architects and antiquaries (chiefly as connected with that art); the formation of which shews that a strong desire to cultivate a knowledge and taste for building public edifices and private residences of architectural pretensions, is rapidly gaining ground amongst us.* In many of our Nos. for years past we have given reports of the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Architectural Society, blended together in union by

* Another striking proof of the fact is, the appointment of a Professor of Architecture in King's College, London; and the election of so efficient an individual as Mr. Donaldson to fill that office.—*Ed. L. G.*

* If these be the rays beyond the violet end of the spectrum, and therefore the chemical electrical rays, their transmission through substances may lead to the desideratum hoped for by our correspondent (*Lit. Gaz.* No. 1340)—a scale of bodies for electricity, like unto rock-salt, &c., for heat.—*Ed. L. G.*

the former title, under the favourable auspices of Earl de Grey about two years ago. We have also regularly mentioned the proceedings of the Cambridge Camden Society; and incidentally pointed attention to other associations, &c., which were engaged in similar measures for the preservation of fine ancient specimens, and the promotion of a better style in the modern erections of architecture in this country. Among other rising bodies with these views, we observe there is a Yorkshire Architectural Society which has begun vigorously by enrolling three hundred members before it called its first meeting together, and inviting all the parochial clergy of the county to join its standard.

But we are led to anticipate a much more important movement in this respect than any to which we have hitherto alluded. A proposition has been made, and received with approbation by many of the ablest architects in London, for the establishment of A NATIONAL COLLEGE FOR ARCHITECTS in the metropolis! We do not mean to under-rate painting, or sculpture, or engraving, or any of the sister arts (and those who have read us most closely for five and twenty years will know with what a passion of love and admiration we regard their successful efforts); but we cannot shut our eyes to the truth, that an infinitely greater share of interest must be attached to the triumphant study and practice of architecture. The magnitude and grandeur of its objects* raises it at once to the sublime; whilst it, equally with the other fine arts, claims the realm of the beautiful. Each may embellish the interior of church, and palace, and magnificent abode; but it is for architecture alone to adorn a whole city or the wide district of an English landscape. Then how much of our domestic comforts depends upon a judicious application of its principles! One house is a little paradise; another a dog-kennel. And yet not one of the arts has sunk so low; nor one been pursued in similar ignorance, and merely as a trade or speculation, by uneducated, tasteless, stupid persons, whose intellect never went beyond the calculation of so many bricks, so much mortar, so much labour, and an estimate of the probable profits on running up a carcass, or really doing (in their way) a row of houses. No wonder that ugliness and incongruity on the outside, and deformity and inconvenience on the in, should be the prevailing character of our modern (*lucus a non lucendo*) school.

We have men in the profession competent to give better direction to the minds both of the employers and the employed; and we rejoice to recognise among some of the latest performances of architecture examples of infinitely superior things to aught that has appeared during at least the last two hundred years. Let this COLLEGE, then, be founded, and let these eminent persons enlighten it with their experience and genius. Let there be a regular system of education—lectures, museums, models, and all other requisites for sound instruction.

What the Royal Academy has heretofore supplied as a branch of its instruction, has been notoriously insufficient for this purpose; and, in fact, the elements of architecture have been studied with far less spirit than the uses of oil-colours or callipers. It ought to be rescued from this neglect, and elevated to its proper rank; and we trust that the design we

have announced to the public will be carried into effect, and found adequate to the ends proposed. All existing associations, &c., will be adjuncts and helps to it; receiving in return the valuable information of a central institution, whose offices are filled by first-rate masters. But, at all events, a new impulse will be given to feeling already so prevalent, and the means of acquiring a thorough knowledge of this important art be made accessible to the rising generation of architects.

BIOGRAPHY.

ALLAN CUNNINGHAM.

The lamented loss of our last Allan Cunningham brings sorrowfully to memory that of his namesake, the distinguished botanist, of whom a very interesting sketch has been written by Mr. Robert Heward, published in the *Journal of Botany*, and reprinted in a volume for private distribution. In acknowledging a copy of this memoir, we have to express our sense of the feeling and judgment with which it has been produced, doing honour to the boundless zeal of its subject in the pursuit of his favourite science, to which he fell a sacrifice before he reached his fiftieth year. His indefatigable researches in Australia have adorned our Flora with multitudes of valuable and beautiful trees and plants of many kinds; and his death-bed was such as became a man who, throughout his whole honest and simple life, had looked through nature up to nature's God. It is thus described in a letter from his friend Capt. P. Parker King, R.N.:-

"On the 24th of June he was removed from his lodgings in Sydney to the cottage in the Botanic Garden for change of scene and air. On the 26th, after the visit of an old acquaintance, a clergyman, he expressed himself in these words: 'If it be the will of God that I recover, I will go to England; but if not, I submit myself with patience and resignation to the divine will.' On Thursday, the 27th, he was undressed and placed in bed, and just as he had lain down, he took Anderson's hand and clasped it firmly for some minutes, when suddenly the grasp relaxed, and his spirit had flown without a struggle to those realms where, I pray God, we may all meet when our time comes. You will thus be pleased to hear that our poor friend's last hours were passed in quiet; nothing happened to disturb him, and his last breath was signed away in the arms of his faithful friend James Anderson. Ever since Cunningham's return from New Zealand his health had declined, and his favourite pursuits of botany and geography have been rather neglected, except in the active movements of his mind; indeed, almost his last rational words were connected with inquiries relative to the new colony of Port Essington, from which letters had been that morning received. Alas, poor Allan! he was a rare specimen—quite a genus of himself; an enthusiast in Australian geography; devoted to his own science, botany; a warm friend, and an honest man; and, to crown all, when the time came, he resigned himself into the arms of his Saviour without a murmur."

"Thus (adds Mr. Heward) died Allan Cunningham, at an age far short of that allowed by the Psalmist as the period of human vigour, exhausted, doubtless, by the twenty-five years of unweary exertion, laborious travel, and the excitement of an unbounded enthusiasm for the science to which he had devoted himself. He pressed onwards in his pursuits with a singleness of heart and purpose which never chequered his success, with an unobtrusiveness too often

the companion of high talent, and which, to the regret of those who knew the rich stores of his mind, disinclined him from giving to the world during his life materials of information and delight."

THE DRAMA.

Drury Lane.—On Saturday *The Duenna* was played, with a strong cast of the parts. *Louisa* and *Clara* by Miss P. Horton and Miss Romer, and the *Duenna*, in full bloom, by Mrs. C. Jones; whilst the Dons were represented, old *Jerome* by Mr. W. Bennett, young *Antonio*, *Ferdinand*, and *Carlos*, by J. Reeve, Allen, and Vestris, *Isaac* by Keeley, and *Father Paul* by H. Phillips. The sweet, though somewhat monotonous, music, was well sung throughout; the elaborately pointed dialogue pointedly given; and the humorous passages better acted than any other; and the whole opera very pleasing and entertaining. But, with all the *préstige* which attaches to the name of Sheridan and the pristine fame of *The Duenna*, it must be confessed that its wit is not of the lasting order to bear the test of time. It is not natural. The traps for the repartees are too obviously laid, and the *arts ceterae artem* utterly abandoned. We see the preparations, the loading and priming, and shouldering and presenting, long before the flash; and this detracts wonderfully from the effect of the fire. The consequence is, a general languor; and except the popular airs, agreeable through remembrance, and the livelier sallies of Clara, the *Duenna*, the choleric Jerome, and the cunning little Isaac, there is little to excite even a momentary merriment.

The *Eton Boy* followed, with increased success. Keeley's *Dabster* is irresistible; and scarcely less can be said for Mrs. Stirling's *Fanny*, C. Mathews's *Captain Popham*, Mr. W. Bennett's *Col. Curry*, or Mrs. Selby's *Sally*—all are most comical, farcical, and excellent.

Two blank nights during the week, Tuesday and Thursday, have been made for the sake of preparing the revival of Dryden's *King Arthur*, to be represented on a grand scale this evening, with Purcell's delicious music.

Covent Garden.—A fortnight ago we made some remarks on the, to us and the uninitiated, inexplicable theatrical routine of "off," otherwise thin and unattractive, nights; which subject we are glad to see taken up by the daily press; as we trust, for the sake of managers, the public, and the drama, it may lead to a reconsideration of the practice, and the adoption of a wiser and more profitable system.

On Wednesday *The Tempest* was brought out here with strenuous exertions, so far as the present is concerned, to reform the evil. The pattern set by Macready was not only followed, but a gallant attempt was made to vary and go a step farther in the path of improvement. The play opened with a real vessel—a Neapolitan felucca, we suppose—tossing and pitching about upon the waves, with her sailors and passengers a-board, performing all sorts of nautical manœuvres, and speaking the text of Shakspeare. The effect was extraordinary, as the ship changed her course, veered, and presented, in succession, both broadsides and bow to the spectators; and the shouts of applause were tumultuous. The next scene of the island, a woody landscape, though somewhat wanting in perspective, was eminently beautiful; whilst others,—such as the banquet, forbidden by the Don Pedro Positive de Snatchaway of a Harpy (*Ariel*), the masque, and the finale, were all triumphs of theatrical machinery.

* We do not speak here of the sublimity of conception common to it with painting and sculpture; but of the sublimity peculiar to itself of mountain greatness.—*Ed. L. G.*

and painting. Of the performances, too, we can speak in terms of general commendation. Vandenhoff's *Prospero*, and his daughter's *Miranda*, were both well done—the former sententious, the latter sweet. Mr. Pitt, as *Ferdinand*, gesticulated too much, but went through the character in a promising style. Miss Rainforth personated Ariel very gracefully, and sang in her own charming tones. It is worthy of remark, that whenever an excellence is struck out by an actor (and the same may be said of the getting-up of dramas), it not only produces its effect in the individual instance, but a permanent improvement for ever, handed down by stage-tradition. Thus, after Miss P. Horton's Ariel, we shall always in time to come have better ARIELS than before; as after Macready's much-criticised manner of producing the immortal works of Shakespeare, we may never expect to see them inefficiently put upon the stage again. It is no disparagement to Miss Rainforth to believe, that if there had not been an Ariel of Miss P. Horton's delicious portraiture, her own would not have been what it is. The *Stephano* of Bartley and the *Trinculo* of Harley are too well known to need a comment: they are extremely laughable. And we have only to notice Bland's *Caliban*, of which we regret to express an opinion, that it was a complete misconception, which he had not lungs to carry out. But it was far too Stentorian and outrageous: Caliban's hate is expressed in curses not loud but deep, which gives force to the occasional and constrained outbreaks. But Bland's fury was throughout ungovernable; and we have only, we hope, to hint it to so capital an actor of the mock heroic, to induce him to drop this "Ercles' vein," and become a gentler monster. On mentioning Mr. Pitt, we might with propriety have adverted to his dress, which, like all the shipwrecked court, was by much too fine. How much more like truth, and how much more effective on the stage, would have been a neat doublet, as if he had really leapt into the sea and swum ashore, instead of all the gold lace and glitter of a royal *sûte*! And the king, too, with his crown on his head, as if kings wore their crowns in sailing-packets! These faults in costume are very absurd.

Haymarket.—Mrs. Fitzwilliam made her first appearance since her return from America, on Monday evening, in *My Little Adopted*, and was warmly received. Afterwards she played in *The Belle of the Hotel*, or *American Sketches*, drawn for her expressly by Buckstone. There was, however, little of originality in the portraiture of the six characters sustained by Mrs. Fitzwilliam. The three most prominent were, the *Yankee Fireman*, Mrs. *Macscrubblescrabble*, and *La Petite Sylphide*: the first was somewhat novel and characteristic; the oregeenial observations of the tourist, the source of the Niagara falls, the gender of the States, and the cause of snags, &c., seemed repeated to our ear; the *Sylphide*, hugging the thought that want of practice, and not plenty too much fat feedled her once fairy foot, though rather coarse, produced the greater laughter. Take them all in all, the sketches answered their end, which could only be to display the versatility of Mrs. Fitzwilliam.

Adelphi.—On Monday two novelties were produced here. 1. *Marc Antony and Cleopatra*, Mr. Wright and Miss Murray; a slight piece from Paris, and spotted with the prurience of the minor theatres of that capital. 2. A travestie of *Alma*, after the successful fashion of *Norma* at this house. The blue-light diabolism, and effective scenery, together with the humorous parody of the original in dance and

song, obtained for it a most favourable reception.

City Theatre.—We only notice this place of public resort as having given a flagrant proof of the evils which are let loose upon society by the sufferance of low theatres; than which, not only in London, but in most of the populous manufacturing towns throughout the kingdom, there are not more extensive nor pestilential corrupters of the lower orders, and especially of their juvenile members of both sexes. At this, we presume, licensed house, Alice Lowe, a prostitute recently acquitted of felony, less on the merits of the case than the demerits of the prosecution, has been made the marked object of public attraction: upon which we offer no other comment than that such a fact is disgraceful to the authorities of the country; and that if we read of such a thing having happened in ancient Rome, we should have spoken of it as one of the most glaring signs of the degeneracy and demoralisation, and therewith the decline and fall, of the empire.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

THE AUTUMN WIND.

How suddenly upon the ear
Harps the bleak autumn wind,
Invoking thoughts of the lone and drear—
The sad, yet undefined!

Stealing the scents of flowers away
That mid the summer smiled;
Blighting their hues, so rich and gay,
That hallow'd many a wild!

Com'st thou not forth, rude blast, to break
The promises of spring;
To dash with grief the young and weak,
And the old with pain to wring?

Thou revellest o'er all perish'd things—
Alike o'er joys and tears;
Death's emblem dread with restless wings,
Quelling life's hopes and fears.

Thou'rt here to crown the dying
With a wreath of wither'd leaves;
While in thy mournful sighing
Fit requiem he receives.

Thou bring'st sweet memories of the dead,
The loved, the pure, the bright;
And things long lost and perish'd,
The lone-some heart's delight.

Oblivion blank—it cannot take
Those memories away,
Which age from youth can reawake,
Undim'd by life's decay.

E. W. G.

ON THE RUINS OF BABYLON.

Is this thine end? now crowns—once a queen—
O city of the dead! can man have grav'd
Such utter desolation on thy brow,
And from the list of ancient empires struck
Thy name for ever, with unsparing curse,
So that the story of thy woes alone
Attests thy former being? They who wept,
Beneath thine iron yoke, for Salem lost,
Beheld thy ruin deadlier than their own,
And left its record, which shall last with time.
And they have pass'd away: a Roman hand
O'er their proud temple dragg'd the hostile plough,
And drove them from the soil no longer theirs.
The Roman is not: on the Palatine
The Vandal reigns supreme; within the walls
Where Caesar dwelt, and call'd the world his own,
A foreign pontiff sits; yet still remains,
Unlevel'd to the dust from which it sprung,
Some glorious record for a future age,
Though man hath done his utmost to destroy.
But not so thou: for in these later days
The weary pilgrim finds a paltry heap
Of time-worn stone, in shapeless ruin pil'd,
And calls it Babylon. Oh, mighty Queen!
Is that thy sepulchre? Is that thy throne?
Where desolate and childless thou dost sit,
Recalling unto mind thy former state,
Or gazing on the dark and silent flow
Of broad Euphrates; whilst within thine ear
The raven hoarsely croaks, and the wind flaps
The matted ivy, which Time's hand hath plac'd,
His conquest to record o'er thee and thine.

T. C.

VARIETIES.

The Third Annual Report of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society takes a comprehensive view, as far as can be ascertained, of the number and condition of slaves all over the earth; and, after reasoning the question on the several leading points, comes to the conclusion that, unless slavery is entirely abolished, it is impossible to prevent the slave-trade.

The Report of the Committee of the Wine-Trade is an earnest pamphlet in favour of a return of the duties paid on stock, against which ministers set their face. There are some strong arguments in favour of precedents, and shewing how this trade differs from all others, so as to entitle it to the claim. Yet there is one fact we do not see set forth on either side. It is well known that nine-tenths of the liquid stuff sold as wine in England is an adulteration of far other materials than ever grew in grapes. Now, certainly, a drawback on this tipple (in stock or elsewhere) would not only be a grievous injury to the revenue, but a gross premium on fraud!

The Literary and Scientific Register and Almanac for 1843, by J. W. Gutch, M.R.C.S.L. (E. Lumley), is a companion for the ensuing year unusually complete in useful information, and well arranged in all the Almanac divisions. As its title imports, it devotes much attention to scientific and literary intelligence; and is indeed a very accurate (though we notice two or three little mistakes) and able expositor in these matters, and a good guide for what will relate to them during the ensuing year.

Church-Music.—We are glad to learn that Mr. Edward Taylor, in his approaching course of Gresham lectures on church-music, proposes to take an ample view of its condition, progress, and effect, from the Reformation to the death of Purcell.

Watches by Machinery.—The repudiation system, with regard to this new invention, seems to be pretty generally adopted by the upper class of watch, clock, and chronometer-makers in the metropolis. Sam Slick, with all his soft sotter, it is thought, could hardly get up a company to work the wheels—the mainspring being unsound, and the levers too weak. In short, that a "dial" so made would only be fit for "a fool i' the forest" to draw from his poke.

Sir R. Peel.—We are informed, by note, that Sir Robert Peel has nominated the eldest son of Mr. Martin, the painter, to be a supernumerary surveyor of taxes: in this, as in other instances, the Premier has shewn that he understands the purest and most effectual mode of encouraging genius, whether in the arts or in literature.

Source of the Nile.—The late accounts from Egypt state that it is the purpose of Mehemet Ali, next season, to send small steamers to the White River, in order to ascend and explore the source of the Nile.

Mr. Holman, the celebrated blind traveller, was on the 8th ult. presented at Alexandria to the Pasha of Egypt, who was much entertained by an anecdote, that our extraordinary countryman had been mistaken for a Russian spy,—of course pretending to be blind!

Mr. William Hone died on Sunday last, after a tedious and severe illness. The author of the *Political House that Jack built*—happy *jew's esprit*, rendered more happy by the pencil of George Cruikshank; of the *Every-Day Book*, the *Year-Book*, the *Table-Book*, and a vast mass of other political and antiquarian matter, in various shapes and phases,—had for some time retired from what may be called public life, and was "clean an altered man" from what the

public knew him. His famous trial for profanation in parodying the Liturgy created an impression against his moral and religious character, though he triumphed in the verdict obtained by the singular force and ability of his own personal defence: but whatever were then his opinions, when removed from the stimulus of controversy his life became exemplary as a good citizen, a man, and a Christian. His *Every-Day Book* and its congeners are the most amusing of desultory antiquities, and deserve a shelf in every library with the Cambdens, Stowes, Strutts, Grosses, Pegges, and Nichols. We hear with regret that, notwithstanding the merit of the antiquarian publications to which we have alluded, Mr. Hone, with the too common fate of literary men, has left a widow and nine children helpless in the world.

The Aguado Gallery.—This celebrated collection of pictures is, it is stated, to be brought to the hammer at Paris in March next.

Cornstalk Molasses.—By taking off the ear of corn early, the farmers in Indiana (America) are enabled to make molasses from the corn-stalk in considerable quantities—2 gallons from 8 of juice. They are about to try the experiment for sugar.

Charcoal as a Manure is also much commended by some American farmers, whose attention was accidentally directed to the fact of its fructifying properties. Amongst other things, it is stated that *rust* never occurs in the crop where charcoal has been spread.

Impromptu.

No more to the country need Cockneys retire
To walk under trees all so shady and sweet;
For the new paving furnishes all they desire,
And every street has a woody retreat.

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

We rejoice to see a new work announced by the author of "Handy Andy," from which we gather that another Part (for December) will complete the adventures of that genuine Irish curiosity, whose portrait, by the by, in Part XI, just published,* as he is icing champagne with a felicity peculiar to his character, is one of the best-executed and most amusing of Lover's etchings to embellish this merry history. The novelty is to commence with January, and to appear in monthly parts: no name seems yet to be given to it.

The Dove-Song.

Coo! coo! coo! coo!
Thus did I hear the turtle-dove,
Coo! coo! coo!
Murmuring forth her love;
As and she flew from tree to tree,
How melting seem'd the notes to me—
Coo! coo! coo! coo!
So like the voice of lovers,
Twas passing sweet to hear,
The birds within the covers
In the spring-time of the year.
Coo! coo! coo! coo!
Thus the song's return'd again—
Coo! coo! coo!
Through the shady glen;
But there I wande'red lone and sad,
While every bird around was glad.
Coo! coo! coo!
Thus so fondly murmur'd they,
Coo! coo! coo!
While my love was away.
And yet the song to lovers,
Though sad, is sweet to hear,
From birds within the covers
In the spring-time of the year."

The Bowld Sojer Boy.

Oh, there's not a trade that's going,
Worth shewing,
Or knowing,
Like that from glory growing,
For a bowld sojer boy;
Where right or left we go,
Sure you know,

* *Apropos.* In this said Part there are several original songs; two of which are so quaint, and sing so admirably, that we are tempted to copy them above.

Friend or foe,
Will have the hand or toe,
From a bowld sojer boy!
There's not a town we march through,
But the ladies, looking arch through
The window-panes, will search through
The ranks to find their joy;

While up the street,
Each girl you meet,
With look so sly,
Will cry,
'My eye!
Oh, isn't he a darling, the bowld sojer boy?'
But when we get the route
How they pout,
And they shout,
While to the right about
Goes the bowld sojer boy.

Oh, 'tis then that ladies fair
In despair
Tear their hair,
But the devil-a-one I care,'
Says the bowld sojer boy!
For the world is all before us,
Where the ladies adore us,
And ne'er refuse to score us,
But chuse us up with joy:

We taste her tap,
We tear her cap—
'Oh, that's the chap
For me!'

Says she—
'Oh, isn't he a darling, the bowld sojer boy?'

Then come along with me,
Gramachree,
And you'll see
How happy you will be

With your bowld sojer boy:

Faith! if you're up to fun,
With me run;

'Twill be done
In the snapping of a gun,

Says the bowld sojer boy;
And 'tis then that, without scandal,
Myself will proudly dandle
The little farthing candle

Of our mutual flame, my joy!

May his light shine
As bright as mine,
Till in the line
He'll blaze,
And raise

The glory of his corps, like a bowld sojer boy!"

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Nov.	Thermometer.	Barometer.
Thursday ... 3	From 31 to 51	29-82
Friday ... 4	" 31 . . . 43	29-93 . . . 30-09
Saturday ... 5	" 29 . . . 46	30-09 . . . 30-03
Sunday ... 6	" 30 . . . 42	30-09 stationary.
Monday ... 7	" 33 . . . 47	30-04 . . . 30-05
Tuesday ... 8	" 36 . . . 46	30-05 . . . 29-95
Wednesday ... 9	" 37 . . . 47	29-77 . . . 29-65

Wind N. and N. by E. from the 3d to the 8th; S. on the 9th. From the 3d to the 8th, generally overcast, except about noon; a little rain fell on the evening of the 3d and morning of the 6th, when a few flakes of snow were observed; rain on the evening of the 9th. Rain fallen, '085 of an inch.

November Meteors.—The period of the supposed annual fall of these phenomena arrives on Sunday next.

Latitude, 51° 37' 32" north.
Longitude, 3 51 west of Greenwich.
Edmonton. CHARLES HENRY ADAMS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To "A Member of the Profession" our answer is, that the subject of law-reform or fees is not adapted to our columns, and appears to be ably and sufficiently discussed in the daily journals. Our surprise is (and, we hope, it may be well founded) that so many lawyers write to the newspapers without charging for their trouble; and in regard to exorbitant law-costs our wish would be that they were quadrupled, if it would have the effect of keeping rogues and fools from litigation.

We are sorry we cannot give the encouragement desired to Jacobus.

The question raised by Tranquill relating to a passage in Mr. Dickens's Notes, is of a nature which we should not like to raise in our columns. As an English lady she may feel hurt by the comparison with the Boston ladies, who are described as resorting to the strong drink of religion as an escape from the monotonous round of home, and may truly claim superior motives to induce attendance on public worship for herself and her countrywomen: but it is not for us to enter into the controversy.

The Elegy on the Marquis of Wellesley declined. It is very unlike the noble marquis's polished and elegant compositions; and nothing less worthy could do rightful honour to his memory.

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